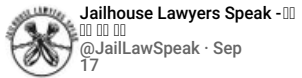
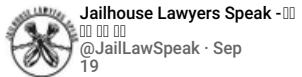


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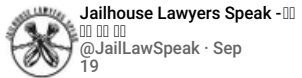
**Jailhouse Lawyers Speak -**  
JailLawSpeak · Sep 17  
A JLS member Freddie Owens in SC is scheduled to be unalived by lethal injection at 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 20. He expresses his remorse for his past. JLS doesn't support the death penalty. His request is that there be help with his unalive costs. He has no insurance

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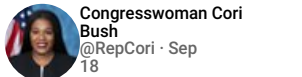
**Jailhouse Lawyers Speak -**  
JailLawSpeak · Sep 19  
South Carolina state restocked its supply of death drugs after it passed a law shielding the identity of drug death suppliers. #burntheprisons

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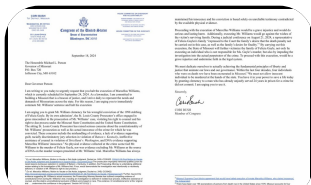
**Jailhouse Lawyers Speak -**  
JailLawSpeak · Sep 19  
South Carolina is one of those states where men and women are serving out death or life sentences for crimes they were present on but not the actual hand to kill. While the actual hand goes free for testimony against the uncooperative person

0 0 3 170



**Congresswoman Cori Bush**  
@RepCori · Sep 18  
Marcellus Williams has spent 24 years in prison for a crime he didn't commit. The State of Missouri now plans to execute Mr. Williams in 6 day's time.

Today, I'm urging @GovParsonMO to halt this barbaric execution & grant Marcellus clemency.



72 9K 14K 365K



**Alec Karakatsanis**  
@equalityAlec · Sep 19  
Saying the police "did the best they could" when armed government agents shoot four people—including a cop and a random hospital administrator in the head—while trying to enforce a \$2.90 public transit fare evasion feels like a society giving up on creating a better world.

**Police Officials Defend Subway Shooting That Gravely Wounded Bystander**

New York City police leaders said officers had done the best they could when they shot a man wielding a knife, also hitting a fellow officer and two bystanders.

5 MIN READ  
61 1K 4K 71K



**CloseTheWorkhouse**  
@CLOSEWorkhouse · Sep 19  
As many of you may have seen, the Mayor's administration has released a statement stating that demolition on parts of the Workhouse will start December 16th. THIS IS A WIN and should and will be celebrated. But... even with this great news, there are demands that are still

1 6 10 781



**IDOCWatch**  
@IDOCWatch · Sep 19  
!!!!Important Phone Zap!!!! New Afrikan/Indiana PP Bro. Khalfani Malik Khaldun is facing serious medical neglect at New Castle Correctional Facility, run by @GEOGroup



**Medical Irresponsibility at New Castle Correctional Facility-PHONE ZAP!!!**

Demand to know why Khalfani's New Castle Medical Dept. has neglected to have him taken offsite to get an update on his kidneys and prostate!

1 25 25 4K



**Jailhouse Lawyers Speak -**  
JailLawSpeak · Sep 19  
Empire seats: Biden then Harris... opening more space for radical struggles



**C.J. Atkins**  
@cj\_atkins · Sep 17  
Angela Davis: Electing Harris will open space for more radical struggles

0 2 8 1K



## Statement from PSPS on Recent FBI Snooping in PNW

September 24, 2024

Statement from Puget Sound Prisoner Support on recent repression of activists in the Pacific Northwest. Originally posted to Puget Sound Anarchists.

Puget Sound Prisoner Support is a Seattle-based anarchist anti-repression collective which has been active in the Pacific Northwest since 2015. Our primary aim is to help radicals in the Seattle area resist repression from the police and courts while providing support for activists subjected to incarceration. We offer jail support trainings for affinity groups and protest organizers, help people find lawyers, offer guidance while navigating the legal system, and organize a monthly prisoner letter writing night in Seattle which has been running for almost 10 years. Additionally, PSPS also issues community warnings when State agents are seeking information about ongoing organizing in the Pacific Northwest.

In late August, we were contacted via email (psps@riseup.net) by an individual stating that the Puget Sound Joint Terrorism Task Force (an arm of the FBI) had attempted to contact them and another activist by leaving business cards at their residence, as well as the

residences of both of their parents - one of which in another state. After meeting with this person, we learned several things that are of importance for the Pacific Northwest radical community.

In our conversation with this person, we learned that the other individual secured a lawyer and agreed to a meeting with an FBI agent. We were told that at this meeting the FBI agent asked about protests against Cop City Lacey as well as Palestine solidarity protests. The FBI agent also asked about different Telegram channels and Signal groups.

While it can be tempting to speculate on intentions and investigations, it is more important that we stick to information that we know. What we know is that the FBI is investigating protests against Cop City Lacey, as well as protests and political action in solidarity with Palestine and Atlanta. We also know that one individual sat down with their lawyer and the FBI.

As a community-facing anti-repression organization, we applaud the original individual's choice to alert us to FBI attempts to intimidate and squeeze information out of each other. State structures attempting to repress our movements succeed when we stay silent in the face of it. Unity and solidarity are our greatest strengths at successfully resisting their attempts to coerce and control our movements. This often looks like a wall of silence when FBI agents

knock on doors seeking information, and refusing to meet with them. While it may feel intimidating, it is crucial to you and your comrades' safety that you not answer questions from Federal Agents or any other cops. It is perfectly legal to just shut the door when they come knocking. There is nothing to be gained and everything to lose by sharing information with agents.

Resistance to repression also looks like alerting the community at large so that our friends and comrades are not surprised when an FBI agent inevitably comes knocking. If you are contacted by the FBI or any other state or federal agency we ask that you make that communication public. The actions of the state do not need to remain secret and we are all safer if they are communicated broadly.

Lastly, we want to make sure to state that you never have to meet with an FBI agent. We urge all radicals to refuse to speak with any FBI agent or law enforcement investigator, even in the company of your lawyer. If your lawyer is urging you to speak with an FBI agent and cooperate with their investigation, you can and should say no and consider finding another lawyer. Often, non-radical or non-movement lawyers do not understand the added importance of refusing to cooperate because their imperative is to keep you safe as their client and they are not always thinking about the safety of our broader community. Your

lawyer works for you and if you do not want to throw your comrades under the bus you don't have to. You can contact us directly, or the local chapter of the National Lawyers Guild to find options for representation - not all lawyers are the same so please do your homework! The National Lawyers Guild maintains a federal defense hotline to contact if you are approached by a federal agency: [masdef@nlg.org](mailto:masdef@nlg.org) or (212) - 279 - 2811.

If you or someone you know has been contacted by the FBI in the Pacific Northwest regarding protest activities, we strongly urge to contact us at [psps@riseup.net](mailto:psps@riseup.net)

In Solidarity,  
Puget Sound Prisoner Support

Photo by [David Trinks](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## The International Solidarity Movement in the West Bank and the Assassination of Ayşenur Eygi

September 22, 2024

Long-running anarchist podcast and radio show, *The Final Straw*, presents an interview on the recent murder of International Solidarity Movement (ISM) activist, Ayşenur Eygi, in the occupied West Bank.

Listen and Download [HERE](#)

This week on the *Final Straw* we're featuring a conversation with Tom and Miriam of the [International Solidarity Movement](#), a Palestinian-led network of activists standing in solidarity with Palestinians on the ground in the occupied territories.

For the hour we talk about the organization, its history, what got these folks involved, the recent and tragic murder of Ayşenur Eygi in Beita in the West Bank which Miriam witnessed, and how conditions have changed as the war by the Israeli settler state has expanded.

Photo by [Cole Keister](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## Weaponizing the Legal System: The Case Against the Florida 4

September 22, 2024

A look at the case of the Florida 4, pro-choice activists in Florida recently sentenced for spray-painting slogans on an anti-abortion center. For more background, [go here](#).

On March 10, 1993, outside Florida's Pensacola Women's Medical Services clinic, in the midst of an anti-abortion protest taking place in the parking lot, Dr. David Gunn exited his vehicle and was shot three times in the back by Ku Klux Klan member and anti-choice zealot Michael Griffin, who was shouting, "Don't kill any more babies!" This was the first documented murder of an abortion provider in the United States. This anti-abortion violence shook the country and ushered in a dangerous era of abortion providers and patients being terrorized by anti-choice extremists.

Since 1977, in the United States there have been 11 murders, 42 bombings, 200 arsons, 492 clinic invasions, 375 burglaries, and thousands of other criminal incidents directed at abortion providers, patients, and volunteers, at their workplaces and their homes. This wave of violent actions against reproductive health service providers continued until Congress finally mobilized. The Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act, or FACE Act, was signed into law in 1994 by President Bill Clinton, to address the marked increase in traumatic violence that abortion doctors, clinicians, and patients had been experiencing since the late 1970's, which had reached a critical point by the early 1990's.

Prior to the passage of the FACE Act, anti-choice activists who physically blocked, openly harassed, and assaulted patients and workers entering reproductive health facilities avoided criminal prosecution based on misapplied First Amendment defenses. For the

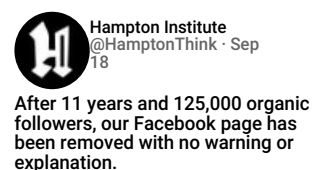
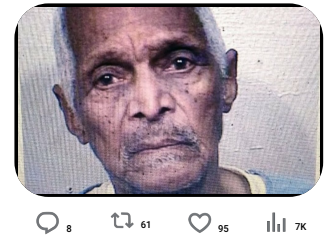
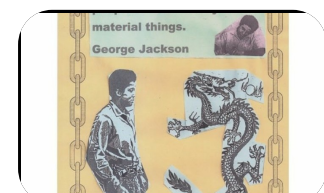
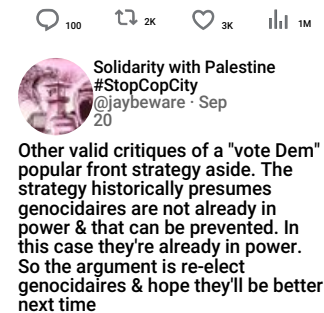
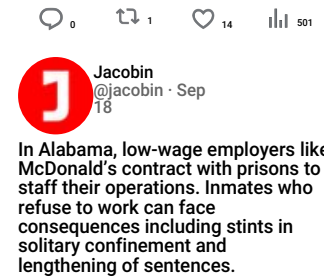
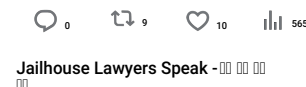
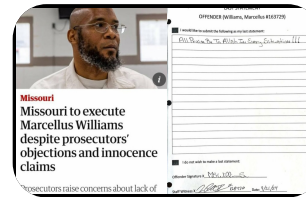
FACE Act to garner enough votes to pass in Congress, Republicans demanded that the definition of reproductive health facility be broadened to include religious-based "crisis pregnancy centers" or, as Planned Parenthood refers to them on its website, "fake clinics." As Planned Parenthood explains: "Most crisis pregnancy centers aren't legitimate medical clinics, so they don't have to follow HIPAA and keep your information private, like most real health providers do. These crisis pregnancy centers could even give your information to other anti-abortion organizations or use it to harass you. This could be especially concerning if you live in a state with anti-abortion laws."

Thirty years have elapsed since the signing of the FACE Act and we're now witnessing the first pro-choice activists to be prosecuted under an act designed to protect abortion doctors and patients. This week, Amber Smith-Stewart, Annarella Rivera, and Caleb Freestone faced sentencing in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida. Amber Smith-Stewart and Annarella Rivera were both sentenced to 30 days in custody and 60 days of house arrest while Caleb Freestone was sentenced to 1 year and 1 day in Federal prison; each will have 3 years of probation; no fines were imposed. All three avoided becoming the first pro-choice activists convicted under the FACE Act, and instead pled guilty to felony conspiracy; they faced a maximum of 10 years in prison and a \$55,000.00 fine. Although they didn't receive the maximum time allowed in prison, they never should have been charged in federal court to begin with and now they have to move forward in their lives with a federal felony conviction.

What did they do to warrant such serious charges? On May 28, 2022, after the U.S. Supreme Court's Dobbs decision was leaked to the public, and on June 26, 2022, two days after the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade by formally issuing Dobbs, Amber, Annarella, Caleb, and one other person went after-hours to two nondescript "fake clinic" buildings in Hollywood and Winter Haven,



Translation: "Indeed, to Allah we belong and to Him we shall return."





books, and stickers and get connected with anarchist projects around the region!

<https://www.instagram.com/sacram>

If you can't make it, you can always order from us here:

<https://crimethinc.com/store>



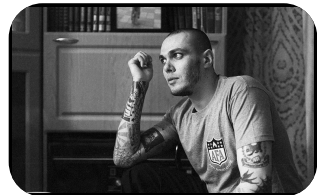
CrimethInc. Ex-Workers  
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep 28

Today marks four years since the Russian anarchist and anti-fascist Alexei "Socrates" Sutuga passed away.

In his memory, we contributed a foreword to the English version of the book about him named "Socrates the Skinhead: The Life of a Russian Anti-Fascist."

You can read it here:

<https://crimethinc.com/Socrates>



CrimethInc. Ex-Workers  
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Aug 30

The French government has arrested Telegram CEO Pavel Durov, while the Brazilian government is going ahead with a ban on the platform formerly known as Twitter.

Both platforms have been central to far-right organizing—for example, publicizing targets during the recent wave of fascist attacks in Britain. Telegram claims to provide encryption, but unlike Tor and Signal, refuses to expose its model to public scrutiny.

The white supremacist billionaire Elon Musk bought Twitter in order to return Donald Trump and various

neo-Nazis to the platform. While Musk pretends the conflict with the Brazilian judiciary is about "free speech," he enthusiastically complies with orders from far-right governments such as the government of India to suspend the accounts of grassroots organizers. He banned us at the explicit request of a well-known fascist as soon as he took control of Twitter. His priority is to promote fascism—not protect speech.

But letting state institutions clamp down on these platforms sets a bad precedent, which could endanger other means of encryption and communication in the future. If we let the state fight these battles in our place, they will use the same strategies to repress us, too. It would be better to abandon and replace Telegram and Twitter ourselves.

<https://crimethinc.com/TwitterCanada>



CrimethInc. Ex-Workers  
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Aug 28

Vortex and Terror Incognita

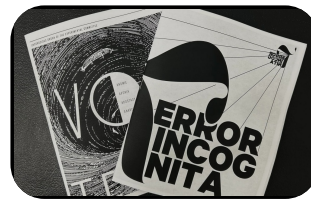
<https://store.crimethinc.com/products/vortex-and-terror-incognita>

A decade ago, in the wake of the Occupy movement and a new wave of interest in queer and insurrectionist anarchism, we published this two-zine set as a venue for experimental thinking and the creative arts. To bring the whimsy of 2012 into dialogue with the calamities of the present, we've prepared a new limited printing of them.

Terror Incognita is a three-part argument for rejecting all fixed conceptions of identity in favor of a bold departure into the unknown. It challenges conventional notions about consent, violence, sexuality, desire, and freedom, pushing the discourse about these subjects far outside familiar territory.

Vortex is a joyous, absurdist, and outright rampage between the poles of philosophy, literature, and performance art. It has a strong personality. Whatever you're imagining, it's weirder than that.

Together, they make for a total of 148 pages of reading.



CrimethInc. Ex-Workers  
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Aug 28

Massive fires across Africa and Latin America have changed the color of the sky, threatening wildlife and inflicting respiratory problems upon millions of people. These are the consequences of agribusiness and commodity monoculture as well as industrially-produced climate change. The smoke has formed a single corridor between the Brazilian and African coasts.

From the heart of the Amazon rainforest to downtown São Paulo, Brazilian authorities recommend staying at home with the windows closed and wearing masks—bringing back memories of the first years of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As we said in 2020—one way or another, one day we will all wear masks.

Will you simply try to mitigate the consequences of capitalism, or fight back for the sake of all life? There is still time to choose your mask.

<https://crimethinc.com/Climate2024>



Jailhouse Lawyers Speak - ☐  
☐ ☐ ☐  
@JailLawSpeak • Jul 16

Mutual Aid can be directed directly towards the inside people led Prisoners Human Rights and Jailhouse Lawyers networks/projects by cash app \$ arebelworld or Venmo @ arebelworld

Florida, and tagged a wall of each one with spray paint. The graffiti read, "If abortions aren't safe then neither are you" and "Jane's Revenge." Two of the codefendants later tagged another building in Hialeah, Florida, on July 3, 2022. The political slogans the four people spray-painted on the outside of the buildings while no workers or patients were present were slogans Smith-Stewart had seen on signs and banners at the Women's March she had just attended in Washington, D.C. Firey rhetoric maybe; but not arson, murder, or even forcing patients to run a gauntlet of harassment and assault on their way to their appointment as so many pro-choice people have had to do.

Ms. Smith-Stewart and her codefendants later expressed how frustrated, scared, and demoralized they were by the loss of bodily autonomy and reproductive choice they, like the majority of Americans, supported and thought was a guaranteed Constitutional right.

Months later, in early 2023, the four were arrested and charged in federal court for two counts of violating the FACE Act and one count of conspiracy. The charge of "graffiti" would normally be a local court misdemeanor resulting in community service hours and perhaps a small fine, but in this case it landed them in federal court facing felony charges that carry up to a 10-year prison term, casting them in starring roles in a political tug-of-war that emerged following the radically conservative Dobbs decision...and did we mention this was in Florida.

In an attempt to weaponize the laws that were meant to protect abortion providers and their patients, Florida Senator Marco Rubio penned two letters to U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland in May and June of 2022, falsely claiming that "Jane's Revenge" had relentlessly targeted the anti-choice/anti-abortion movement and must be prosecuted as violent pro-choice activists as violent terrorists was likely an attempt to

distract the public from an overwhelmingly unpopular partisan Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, and an attempt to save political face after a minority political view hijacked a fifty-year precedent of public health and bodily autonomy. The political right and the religious organizations that spend wildly on their re-election campaigns have attempted to create a false moral equivalency between pro-choice activists who engaged in minor property damage and violent, in-your-face anti-choice activists who carried out a decades-long campaign of terror on doctors and patients.

At the sentencing on September 12, 2024, Amber Smith-Stewart's attorney, Lauren Regan, argued that any sentence other than probation and community service hours would result in unwarranted sentencing disparities—prohibited by the federal sentencing guidelines. She set forth dozens of FACE Act cases and sentences to use as comparators. There was not a single case that had facts as nonviolent and with as little property damage as this case. For instance, a case from 2021 involved an anti-abortion man who intentionally broke five security cameras and a window at a Planned Parenthood clinic while it was open for business. He came back three days later and threw a cement block through a window at the clinic and tore down the clinic's intercom system while the clinic was serving patients. The clinic was forced to close for over four months as a result of the damage. He was sentenced to two years of probation on each count and restitution in the amount of \$24,650.16.

Even more troubling, a case in the Middle District of Florida (the same court we were in) involved another anti-choice man who firebombed a Ft. Meyer Planned Parenthood Clinic with Molotov cocktails—the second one thrown at the clinic set it on fire. Though charged with arson, possession of an incendiary device, criminal mischief and FACE Act, he was sentenced on the FACE Act count to 8 months in custody—four months less than Caleb Freestone for spray painting. Shockingly, Judge Hernandez Covington revealed her true bias when she stated that spray painting

words on the outside of a building would be more threatening to the workers than showing up to find your reproductive health clinic was firebombed. Apparently militant graffiti in support of abortion rights is scarier to this Judge than a far-right extremist committing arson at a Planned Parenthood clinic.

Defendant Annarella Rivera said, "I've supported and raised two children by working in my chosen field of ob/gyn healthcare. When not working, I've spent countless hours escorting patients to and from clinical appointments for their safety and the safety of our workers. Simply put, women's health and ability to choose their own path is my passion and calling. I never thought that the act of spray-painting a fake healthcare provider would result in the FBI violently raiding my house or that I would become a pawn in the fight for a person's right to bodily autonomy—something an overwhelming majority of citizens in the United States believe in."

Amber Smith-Stewart, a 23-year-old artist at the time of her arrest, had no prior convictions. She expressed remorse that the spraypainted slogans on the side of so-called crisis pregnancy centers may have caused employees to feel unsafe. "In hindsight, I understand that the slogans we spray painted in 2022 could have been taken as a threat which was not our intent. The real threat here remains the assault by a vocal minority against a person's right to choose. This is where the real danger lies. The Dobbs decision puts lives at risk. People seek abortions for a multitude of reasons, and the decision to terminate or carry a pregnancy to term should never be made by power brokers in Washington, D.C. In my case, my own life would be at risk if I was subjected to a forced pregnancy."

Lauren Regan of the Civil Liberties Defense Center, stated, "It is deeply unjust that these social justice activists have been used as political pawns in the highly contentious national fight over abortion and access to reproductive health care—and under Joe Biden's

The loss of bodily autonomy and reproductive choice has only been exacerbated by the dirty tactics and lies perpetrated upon the American public in an attempt to roll back 50 years of Supreme Court precedent. Justices Gorsuch and Kavanaugh both lied during their confirmation hearings to the public, as well as privately in the offices of Republican and pro-choice Senators Susan Collins and Lisa Murkowski. Collins, who voted to confirm Gorsuch and Kavanaugh, said on May 3, 2022 in response to the leaked Dobbs decision, "If this leaked draft opinion is the final decision and this reporting is accurate, it would be completely inconsistent with what Justice Gorsuch and Justice Kavanaugh said in their hearings and in our meetings in my office."

The fact remains that 63% of all Americans believe that abortion should be legal in all or most cases. This case is a clear signal that far right conservatives are blatantly abusing the legal system for political gains and have shed any perception of an unbiased judiciary. The fact also remains that when young people face a decade in federal prison for graffiti, regardless of the message, and one of them gets more time in prison than a firebombing arsonist, something behind the scenes is dangerously unjust.

Photo by [Matthew Essman](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## Montreal Summer Reflection: Liberalism, Its Counter-Revolutionary Dynamics & Peace Policing

September 22, 2024

A critical reflection on dynamics and liberal approaches within the movement in solidarity with Palestine in so-called Montreal. Originally posted to *Montreal Counter-Info*.

The summer of Montreal came crashing into full force as the encampment movement bloomed across university campuses around the world. For many of us, it was the first time being apart of something bigger than us, challenging the status quo and experiencing a level of violence both from the institution and state. Even with all of this, and the many strides that were made, the connections that were made, we aren't without fault and mistakes.

As I write this, I made the conscious decision to submit this piece anonymously both because of fear of being tied to the encampment movement and because of organizational entities that deemed themselves as leaders, who made existing within the camps an increasingly hostile environment. I believe the act of anonymity will allow a more honest reflection.

### Liberalism & Counter-Revolutionary Dynamics

What sets our tactics apart from liberals isn't simply a matter of "diversity of tactics" that many of us might believe, but rather a fundamental disagreement on how material societal change occurs.

Liberalism promotes change through established institutions and democratic processes, it advocates for reform, with the current existing system that we spend so much of our time protesting and resisting against. The liberal agenda hopes to stabilize and improve the current system rather than overthrowing it.

Contrasting this with our tactics of militancy and a framework built on direct action, we reject the premise of incremental approaches and reform. We are in favour of immediate and significant upheaval, we are driven by the belief that freedom will only come through material radical change. I.e. real disruptive protests, strikes and economic sabotage to name a few.

It's liberalism that attempts to convince us that the rule of bourgeois law and so-called

"democratic institutions" are worth engaging with.

When in reality these rotten, immoral institutions are what brought the indescribable suffering of Palestinians, these institutions are the very tool that finances and supports genocide.

The summer has left a mark of a revolutionary zeal that ought to be put to use. It's liberalism that comes to us with empty fluffy words, that come to us in the form of three to four letter orgs, these are the entities that attempt to delay us and prevent us from the kind of radical shift that has been needed within the global north since '48.

We will not be convinced that this system is worth saving. We have no intention to reinforce structures that exploit us and our comrades around the globe by coming to a negotiation table. We have no intention in saving this system, our intention is to overthrow it by any means necessary, exactly what has been asked of us by the resistance in Gaza.

### Peace Policing

What has been a common reoccurring protest method, something that is not unique to Montreal, is the role of Yellow Vest/Protest Marshals. What was originally supposed to be a shield between protesters and police, has now become the first line of offense FOR the police. Myself and many others have witnessed the way yellow vests work in unison with police by giving out protest routes beforehand, controlling the way protesters express their anger and to maintain the dominance of a unelected hierarchal leadership to a specific organization. This past summer, all that the yellow vests have had to offer us is the strangling of enthusiasm, effectiveness and the inability to exhaust police resources correctly.

Orgs and groups who use this method of crowd control offer no protections and no culture of de-arresting. What the yellow vests accomplish is creating an environment that allows the job of the police be done for them. These

We are everywhere!



CrimethInc. Ex-Workers  
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep

Today is the birthday of Dmitry Petrov, a Russian anarchist who was killed last year while resisting the invasion of Ukraine. Dmitry spent his life fighting authoritarianism. His story offers a snapshot of two decades of anarchist activity in the post-Soviet world.

Read about him here:

<https://crimethinc.com/Petrov>

In the words of Dmitry's father,

"I am writing about my son. He is my flesh and blood. He is my best friend. And my main opponent. A gifted scholar. A talented author. A brave man. Willing to go all the way. For what he stands for and what he believes in. He's my hero.

"When talking about him, my wife and I don't use the past tense. Just the present. And the future. He is perhaps the only absolutely whole person I know. He always and in everything follows the dictates of his conscience and the ideas that unite us. At the same time, he is not only an ideological and straightforward person. He is not only a gifted scientist who studied the Russian North 'in the field' and Kurdistan in the desert. And not only the author and editor of many articles and several books.

"One should read his recent texts and see that he is a strategist of the movement that today opens new horizons."

□□



CrimethInc. Ex-Workers

@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep



We are outraged by the murder of Aysenur Ezgi Eygi by Israeli occupying forces in the West Bank. It calls to mind the murder of Rachel Corrie, another US citizen who was in Palestine doing solidarity work, by Israeli forces in Gaza in 2003.

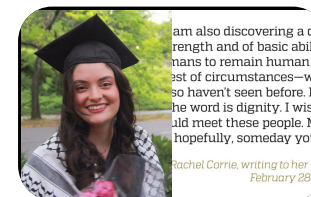
Their names are widely known, but no one knows all the names of the tens of thousands of Palestinians who have been senselessly murdered over the last several months for the sake of racism and colonialism. This illustrates the dehumanization and erasure of Palestinians, which is an affront to the humanity of all people.

One of the witnesses of the murder of Aysenur Ezgi Eygi was the anarchist Jonathan Pollak. As he points out, this is just the latest following a series of seventeen intentional murders that the Israeli forces have carried out during demonstrations targeting the residents of this particular town, Beita, since 2021. We are only hearing about it because this time, they murdered a US citizen.

May the courage of those who have endured oppression and the bravery of those who risk their lives in solidarity move us all to do what it takes to create a world without genocidal violence.

You can read Jonathan's perspective on the genocide in Palestine here:

<https://crimethinc.com/GazaGenocid>



CrimethInc. Ex-Workers  
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep

In 1930, the German state of Thuringia was the first in which the Nazi Party won the elections. This week, the fascist party Alternative für Deutschland won the highest number of votes in Thuringia. The resurgence of fascism in Germany is reflected in a wave of Nazi street violence around the country.

Around the world, neoliberal regimes have brutally repressed anti-capitalist movements, creating

a situation in which fascists can pretend to represent the only alternative. Fascism will continue to gain momentum until we create grassroots movements that can crush it while addressing the problems capitalism creates.

Background:

<https://crimethinc.com/Germany202>



CrimethInc. Ex-Workers  
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep

"Labor Day" is an ersatz holiday created to sap momentum from May Day, the day of revolutionary resistance established by anarchists.

Let's not simply ask for more crumbs from the table—let's fight for the abolition of capitalism and work itself.

<https://crimethinc.com/antiwork>

"When we say anti-work, we don't mean an abstract political position disapproving of work; we mean a practice that actively abolishes the necessity to work, the way that anti-matter annihilates matter. In other words, an activity aimed at doing away with all the mechanisms that serve to concentrate power—from debt to intellectual property rights and the prison-industrial complex. All the things that force us to keep putting our noses back to the grindstone when there are so many other things we'd prefer to be doing."



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@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep

We will be tabling on September 7 at the Sacramento Anarchist Book Fair. Come pick up some zines, posters,



hundreds of city residents conducted a mass fare evasion at the West 4th station, hopping the turnstiles to say clearly that no one should be killed for not having \$2.90, that in fact the subway should be free—and free of cops."

In fact, it was a demonstration very much like this one that set off the Chilean uprising of 2019.

<https://crimethinc.com/Chile2020>



CrimethInc. Ex-Workers  
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep 18

This week, there are demonstrations in New York City after police attacked a person they accused of dodging the fare on the subway. Multiple police opened fire, shooting the suspect, each other, and several other people who happened to be in the station.

It's senseless to have police randomly shooting people to enforce a \$2.90 fare. Make the subways free as a step towards the abolition of capitalism and police.

<https://crimethinc.com/nobodypays>



CrimethInc. Ex-Workers  
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep 17

Thirteen years ago today, a thousand demonstrators descended on Wall Street, occupying Zuccotti Park and kicking off what came to be known as the Occupy movement. Revisiting that moment, we can see how dramatically the terrain of social movements has changed as our society has polarized.

The organizers of Occupy Wall Street proposed to create a movement that could bring all

society together against the ruling order and the few who profit from it, mobilizing under the slogan "We are the 99%." Today, the divisions that cut through our society have only deepened, rendering it more difficult to imagine social change. Now, the capitalist order is not stabilized by the illusion of general consent, but rather by the looming threat of violent conflict.

Yet if anything, this only renders it more important to learn from and experiment with the legacy of the Occupy movement today.

<https://crimethinc.com/Occupy2024>



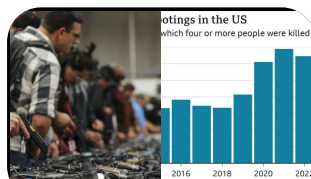
CrimethInc. Ex-Workers  
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep 17

As the news cycle focuses on the latest apparent assassination attempt, the real story here is that arms profiteers have flooded the United States with weapons—while social crises have intensified—to such an extent that even billionaires like Donald Trump are experiencing the consequences.

There have already been hundreds of mass shootings in the United States in 2024. Trump is just getting a small taste of how the rest of us live. The difference is that the rest of us don't have the Secret Service and millions of dollars in security to protect us.

As usual, the ruling class create a threat to us, profit on it, then pretend to be the chief victims. The solution is not more police repression, nor more state-imposed gun control (since that would only be enforced via more police violence). We have to organize collectively and horizontally to defend ourselves against arms profiteers, police, and politicians.

<https://crimethinc.com/TheirGuns>



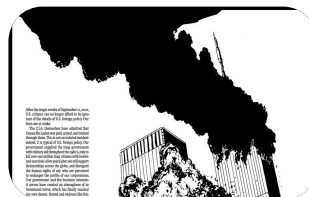
The attacks that took place on September 11, 2001 left much of the US population more stunned than bellicose. Yet politicians had prepared a flood of new legislation and military interventions in advance for precisely such an opportunity. They initiated a new round of colonial wars and crackdowns on domestic dissent.

More than a million people died as a consequence of the subsequent invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq and the resulting turmoil. The rise of the Islamic State and, later, the disorganized withdrawal of the US military from Afghanistan showed how little these operations achieved their professed objectives. Yet by creating this disaster, George W. Bush managed to ride the coattails of war to another term as president.

Since October 7, 2023, the Israeli government has pursued a similar course, taking advantage of the opportunity to destroy Gaza and butcher tens of thousands of Palestinians. This will not make anyone safer in the region—neither Palestinians nor Israelis nor anyone else. It is calculated to create an ongoing crisis that will keep the most chauvinistic Israeli politicians in power at everyone else's expense.

Today as in 2001, our leaders will not protect us, but they can get us killed. Stop the genocide in Palestine.

<https://crimethinc.com/2015/12/14/the-french-911>



CrimethInc. Ex-Workers  
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep 10

A sighting of our "You can't kill an idea" sticker in the wild.

To be precise, in Ester, Alaska—population 2,416.

<https://www.etsy.com/listing/13877-sticker-municipal-adhesives-x>

protest marshals actively sabotage efforts of escalation in the hopes that playing by the rules will have their movements be seen as more "legitimate". Yet, when has any demand been delivered by legitimacy alone? The mere act of standing against genocide has left a sour taste in the mouths of our enemies, is this who we must legitimize ourselves to?

I will close this section off with questions I have yet to find answers to. Who do the yellow vests protect when their back is to the police as they face the crowd? Who do they represent when they pull people off of sidewalks and pick up the trash cans that were thrown on to the ground, snuffing out our ability to move freely, and who do they mirror when they decide how we protest?

## Closing Off

These past months have put us in an incredible position, one where we can reorient ourselves not to be stagnant. The movement must come together from many different fronts, where we can stand united not as a single banner but rather a mosaic of resistance, where the final blow against those who stand against us be laid.

My comrades and soon to be accomplices, there is no shortage of work.

With everything we know now, with all the mistakes that have been made, let us embark in the next part of this act, and may we be better equipped to handle whatever is thrown at us.

## Report Back on Running Down the Walls in NYC

September 22, 2024

Report back on Running Down the Walls in New York City from the NYC Anarchist Black Cross.

Running Down the Walls 2024 has come and gone. Here in NYC we had a beautiful day to do it, the mid-September New York weather finally feeling like autumn instead

of a desert summer. Both Prospect Park and the City itself seemed even busier than usual, with buskers, vendors and birthday parties nearby and marches and rallies elsewhere in town. In coordinating a multi-city run with organizers on both sides of the walls, we have to find a day that works for everyone involved as much as possible.

As it turned out, not only did this year's run land on Jamel Floyd's birthday (September 15th), but it was also the 55th Annual African Day Parade. It also happened to be the day for at least three other political prisoner and/or anarcho-adjacent events in the five boroughs. So it was a busy weekend for many New Yorkers, including NYC ABC! Even still, a lively core of runners, bikers, walkers, and chillers assembled near the black RDTW banner to raise funds awareness, and community solidarity for our political prisoners. It was wonderful to reconnect with long time friends and comrades, and to welcome some new faces!

The goal of RDTW, this year as much as any, is of course to raise much-needed funds for the Anarchist Black Cross Federation Warchest Program. Also though, and always, any chance to share information about the political prisoners and POW's we support is heartily welcomed. Not to mention that events such as these are important in building and maintaining a community of solidarity in the here and now, rather than waiting for some dreamy future or idealizing pasts or present communities we are not a part of.

The namesake event itself kicked off a bit later than usual this year, as 'anarchy time' remains as reliable as ever. This year there were some pretty serious runners and bikers, as well as some casual perambulators happy to enjoy the fresh air at an unhurried pace. After the 'run', as is local anarchist tradition, organizers, participants and supporters shared an especially delicious home-cooked vegan meal, and spent a few more hours making new friends and catching up with cherished comrades.

## Student Intifada: Reflections from the 2024 Palestine Solidarity Encampment Movement

September 22, 2024

A critical reflection from Unity and Struggle on the recent demonstrations on US campuses in solidarity with Palestine that exploded this summer.

In the Spring of 2024, Columbia University students led an encampment on campus calling on their university to disclose their financial investments and to divest from Israel. After months of sustained but ineffective protests against the Israeli military's genocide against Palestinians, many were inspired by the Columbia occupation to start university occupations on over fifty campuses around the country.

Unity and Struggle members participated as staff, students, alumni, or nearby residents in encampments and protests in Georgia, Illinois, New York and Tennessee. In May, we hosted a call with members across cities to draw out lessons, successes, and limitations of the student intifada. We find inspiration and hope in the student movement, which represents a novel intervention in the ongoing genocide thus far. Below, we identify five contradictions, tensions, or questions that the student movement has posed. We hope that identifying questions can help revolutionaries critically analyze the moment to carry lessons onto the next phase of struggle for a free Palestine.

## 1. Temporal constraints

The encampments were subject to significant temporal pressures brought on by their spontaneous origins and the swiftness of university and police repression.

For example, though the Gaza



Solidarity Encampment at Columbia had been planned by student activists for months, the initial camp only lasted for one day before being cleared by police. The longer-lasting encampment was thus a spontaneous, ad hoc one, established by onlookers and supporters watching the initial arrests. Many other encampments around the country were also spontaneous and quickly erected, though they certainly drew upon existing SJP, student activists, and Palestinian solidarity infrastructure, including an encampment how-to guide circulated by SJP.

The willingness of university administrators and local law enforcement to move in quickly was unexpected for Columbia University, whose previous President had repudiated the university's use of police officers to quell the 1968 protests. (Lee Bollinger, in 2008, said: "You simply do not bring police onto a campus." [Citation here](#), while it has been reported that NYPD had been previously barred from arresting students since 1968, it should be noted that in 1996, 15 students were arrested by NYPD after a student occupation of Low Library for Ethnic Studies. [Citation here](#).) Similarly, the use of chemical weapons on students and faculty by Georgia State Police within a few hours of the establishment of Emory's camp came as a surprise after an occupation by Emory students against Cop City just last year faced relatively less repression.

Of course, police repression of student activists has been used in different parts of the country for some time now. [In the UC system, student building occupations](#) have been met with arrests and police violence for decades, including the system wide tuition-hike protests of the 2009-2010 school year. Many of these UC building occupations were daily cleared and re-established.

As news of swift repression of Palestine solidarity camps spread, newly establishing camps scrambled to prepare for police action. Yet, more preparedness did not necessarily translate into more success, especially given university and state willingness to use

increasing levels of force against students and other protestors. We applaud those who moved to circulate the lessons from earlier encampment, occupation, or university movements and ask how in the future we might more quickly circulate those lessons while widely sharing the skills necessary to engage contextual strategic analysis.

At some schools, people thought about repression in terms of the history of their particular universities. In the future though, we'll need to think of cross-campus, city-based histories as well as the national and international political situation. What was done at one school sometimes affected other nearby schools. For example, the media backlash in response to the use of chemical weapons at Emory may have contributed to the decision by the admin and police to refrain from chemical weapons at UGA. In an opposite example, the use of force by police at Columbia and CCNY may have given public sanction to the use of force at other NYC schools.

Temporal pressures meant that encampments often had to deal with the challenge of constructing organizational processes on the fly, under time constraints not often experienced by student organizers, who had often not established a system of operations or political unity in advance. While we highlight a number of tensions and contradictions later on in this piece, it's worth noting that the constraint of time - the need to respond quickly, to defend camps immediately - was a significant external factor in making conflict resolution and strategic assessment difficult.

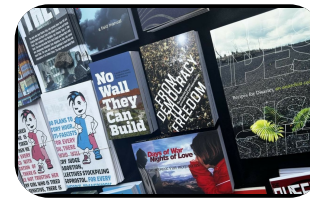
Finally, the timing of the encampment movement at the end of the school year meant that some university administrators could make the decision to wait the encampments out, wagering that students would disband voluntarily as the semester ended. In negotiations, some university administrators offered students the concession of holding discussion and votes on divestment after the end of the school year, in exchange for dismantling the camps. While some students may have initially


wagered that universities would seek to protect the normal operation of commencements, the coming end of the school year more often became an important source of leverage for university admin. And while professors and graduate workers could use the threat of a grade strike at the end of the school year to disrupt campus operations, support for grade strikes were not widespread enough among faculty to be effective. The UC UAW's attempt to go on a grade strike was halted by a judicial injunction, marking a limit to organized academic labor's legal capacity to fight for non-academic causes and the tactic of withholding of grades to do so.

## 2. Negotiate or Escalate?

A central tension in the encampments was over whether students should seek to negotiate with administrators or to escalate their tactics to more militant confrontation. The threat of police violence and school disciplinary actions pushed some students to accede to administrative constraints in order to continue their encampments and prevent arrests. Admin requests often centered on restricting encampments to university affiliates only, preventing "outside agitators" from entering, or banning the use of tents for students to sleep in outdoors. Advocates for negotiation sometimes argued that negotiation was necessary to win student demands, to keep the encampments open so they could build greater power, and to keep students, particularly Palestinian and other students of color, safe from state violence.

Others advocated for a more militant strategy of escalation, believing that negotiation with administrators would be ultimately futile. This group argued that students needed to take on riskier tactics in order to assert greater power and solidarity with Palestine. This escalation strategy largely expressed itself through building takeovers (most notably at Cal Poly Humboldt and at the Hind's Hall takeover at Columbia) and more



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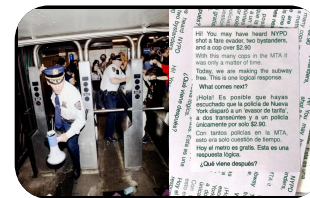
"Live Free, Ride Free, Fuck NYPD"


A Report from a Mass Fare Evasion in New York City

<https://crimethinc.com/RideFreeNYC>

On Sunday, September 15, New York City police officers shot live rounds at random into the L train at the Sutter Avenue station at the border of Brownsville and East New York, Brooklyn. They were pursuing a Black man who had allegedly skipped the \$2.90 fare. They shot him and two unfortunate bystanders —one in the arm, one in the head.

On Wednesday, September 18, hundreds of people gathered at Union Square to carry out a mass fare evasion in response to this heinous attack.




 CrimethInc. Ex-Workers  
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep 23

In August 2024, a wave of protests rocked Indonesia, ostensibly in response to political machinations aimed at anointing a successor to President Joko Widodo, popularly known as Jokowi. Very little information has circulated about these protests in the English-speaking world. To get a sense of the deeper issues at play, we reached out to anarchist participants in different parts of Indonesia.

<https://crimethinc.com/Indonesia20>



 CrimethInc. Ex-Workers  
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep 22

The Israeli government is doing its best to escalate a military conflict with Hezbollah. In addition to threatening the lives of countless ordinary people, this also undermines the possibility of positive social change throughout the region.

In 2019, a grassroots uprising broke out against the sectarian parties that rule Lebanon, including Hezbollah. Movements like this on both sides of every nationalist conflict represent the only real hope for peace worldwide.

For background on the uprising, read this interview with Elia Ayoub:

<https://crimethinc.com/LebanonUpr>

Hezbollah derives much of its perceived legitimacy in Lebanon from the threat of Israeli violence. Israeli aggression will only consolidate its hold. To understand why, consult this new text from Elia Ayoub  
(<https://todon.eu/@ayoub@spore.so>):

<https://www.hauntologies.net/p/hez-10-things-you-need-to-know>

Nationalists seek to impose their conflicts on everyone as the only imaginable horizon of possibility. This is one of the many reasons we must put an end to Israeli colonial violence throughout the region.



 CrimethInc. Ex-Workers  
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep 19

Rebellious souls in Russia have sent us a photograph of this banner hanging over the train tracks in the Leningrad region. It reads "ПРИЗНАЙСЯ, ЧТО ХОЧЕШЬ ВОССТАНИЕ!" — "Say You Want an Insurrection," the title of our classic text discussing insurrectionary anarchism. While the title has an ironic aspect in English on account of the association with a certain song by the Beatles, in Russian, it comes across more like "Admit it: you want to revolt!"

Along with the photograph, we received this message:

"Rebellion is a time when fear turns into joy. This time is not in the past and does not wait in the future. Rebellion lives in the present. The rebellion of ungovernable lives against the military death machine, of unbridled diversity against xenophobia and patriarchal cynicism, of everything strange against the general fatigue, apathy, and boredom.

"The uprising speaks in each of us in the transcendent languages of rage and love. Our distant friends, we are beside you, we are among you. isn't it time for us to admit, together, that we want the same—many and different—uprisings!"

It is heartening to know that even under conditions of intense repression and autocracy, the desire to revolt thrives.

<https://crimethinc.com/texts/insurre>

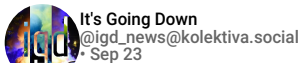


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A report on tonight's demonstration from Writers against the War on Gaza:

"Tonight, New Yorkers stood up for their community and protested the expansion and impunity of the police occupation of their city. Last Sunday, the NYPD shot Derrell Mickles and three others after Mickles allegedly entered the platform through the emergency exit at the Sutter Avenue station in Brownsville—committing a mass shooting in one of New York City's poorest neighborhoods. In response,





Critical reflections on the recent wave of campus occupations in solidarity with **#Palestine**.

<https://itsgoingdown.org/student-intifada-reflections-from-the-2024-palestine-solidarity-encampment-movement/>



**Student Intifada: Reflections from the 2024 Palestine Solidarity Encampment Movement**  
A critical reflection from Unity and Struggle on the recent demonstrations on US campuses in solidarity with Palestine that exploded this su...

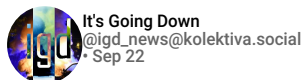


"In an attempt to weaponize the laws that were meant to protect abortion providers and their patients, Florida Senator Marco Rubio penned two letters to U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland in May and June of 2022, falsely claiming that "Jane's Revenge" had relentlessly targeted the anti-choice/anti-abortion movement and must be prosecuted as terrorists. Rubio's desire to paint pro-choice activists as violent terrorists was likely an attempt to distract the public from an overwhelmingly unpopular partisan Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, and an attempt to save political face after a minority political view hijacked a fifty-year precedent of public health and bodily autonomy."

<https://itsgoingdown.org/weaponizing-the-legal-system-the-case-against-the-florida-4/>



**Weaponizing the Legal System: The Case Against the Florida 4**  
A look at the case of the Florida 4, pro-choice activists in Florida recently sentenced for spray-painting slogans on an anti-abortion cente...



"Nothing could be further from the truth. We're not a monolith with a singular purpose or a pied piper stealing your children away. We're just people. I'm just a person. No amount of fantastical fearmongering will change the facts."

<https://www.newsweek.com/alana-mclaughlin-i-trans-mma-fighter-1951927>



I'm a trans MMA fighter. I refuse to be the bigger person  
There is a demand that trans people, especially trans women, just roll over and be silent. Be invisible. Or just don't be at all.



Trumpism tries to divert concerns of working and poor people, degraded by decades of neoliberalism, corporate globalization, and austerity, by offering false solutions in the form of calls to violence and racist attacks on immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ folks, and the Left, in an effort to protect and strengthen the power of the ruling class.



Video report back from the

**#Sacramento Anarchist Bookfair!**

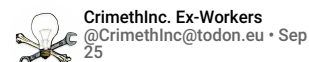
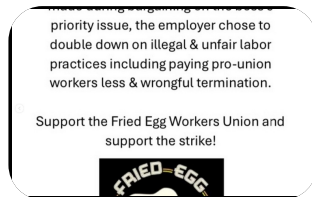
They are still selling shirts you can snag here which benefit local mutual aid groups:  
<https://sacramentoanarchistbookfair1951927>



Workers at the Fried Egg restaurant in **#Portland**, Oregon have walked out on strike demanding a raise and a re-hiring of a fired co-worker. Workers there formed a union under the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) several months ago.

**#Labor #LaborUnion #Union #IWW #Wobblies #Strike #LaborMovement**

Follow here for updates:  
<https://www.instagram.com/friedegg>



We will be tabling at the Seattle Anarchist Book Fair September 28-29 and at the Bay Area Anarchist Book Fair on October 6!

Come stock up on books, zines, posters, stickers, and more!

Seattle:

<https://sabf.info/>

Bay Area:

<https://www.instagram.com/bayarea>

You can always order from us directly:

<https://crimethinc.com/store>

active, militant camp defense against right-wing outsiders and police (picture UCLA), as opposed to principles of nonviolence and non-engagement.

Escalation sometimes meant that many seasoned and militant organizers, who were more likely to take on red roles, were arrested, suspended, and barred from returning to the encampments, sometimes leaving less experienced and less militant students to continue. This may explain the shift in later weeks at some campuses to escalations which were more limited - i.e., the taking of a building at UCLA or CUNY, but only for a few hours, with students dispersing before any arrests could be made. (Note, however, that at some universities suspensions failed to prevent some militant students from returning and continuing to escalate.)

As revolutionaries, we of course support such escalation tactics as a matter of principle. But we also think that the efficacy of negotiation or escalation depends upon the balance of forces within a given encampment's particular context. More successful escalation, for example, would require a broad-base of support within the university beyond the student activist layer (staff, faculty, other students), and beyond the walls of the university (outside organizations, community support). The use of escalation tactics without buy-in from staff, in particular, could produce new rifts between students and custodians, maintenance workers, and dining hall workers: the very people who make the university run, but who are largely left out of conceptions of whom the university is comprised of.

Negotiation on the other hand, could concentrate power in the hands of a few select negotiators, going against the more militant desires of others in the encampments. At many campuses, the establishment of negotiating committees was an opaque process, and negotiators were sometimes not accountable to the larger student movement. Moreover, while negotiating was often framed as a necessary tactic to defend students,

particularly Palestinian, Arab, Black and immigrant students, from violent repression, not all campuses faced the same immediate repression. At Northwestern, one of the earliest encampments to reach a deal with administration, the school's location in the city of Evanston, and not Chicago, meant that the Mayor of Evanston would have had to first authorize CPD to enter Evanston and do an encampment sweep. That this leverage was not used was a missed opportunity. Students won some concessions - a center for Muslim students, and five scholarships for Palestinian students - but did not win any core demands around disclosure and divestment, other than vague promises of disclosure to "internal stakeholders" and the formation of a new "advisory committee." While we think negotiation can be a useful tactic in some cases, it's worth considering how concessions can be structured in a way that furthers future action around divestment.

We also welcome the increasing student interest in militant tactics and developing the skills necessary to mount vigorous defense. But it's worth asking how the overwhelming force of state violence, and administrator and government willingness to deploy it, produces limits on the effectiveness of escalation. (More on this below.)

Finally, it's worth considering what the theory is behind the strategy of escalation. At a basic level, spectacles of escalation certainly inspired other universities to throw down and to consider new tactics and more militant encampment defense. But what is the larger goal of escalation? It is to invite repression and thereby lay bare the fascist character of the state and its support for Zionism? Is it to involve large numbers of people in the experience of militant struggle and push the limits of what's possible? If so, we should ask: is that working? Moreover, how does escalation accord with the stated goal of the encampment movement of Palestinian liberation? How do the strategies of negotiation and escalation bring us further to achieving this?

We want to suggest that decisions to "escalate" may have also been motivated by emotional and subjective factors. After months of witnessing the Gaza genocide and failing to find meaningful ways to halt it, many of us felt hopeless and aware of the left's limitations in finding an adequate strategy for the anti-war movement. Perhaps escalation served as a release valve for those bad feelings, a search for cathartic release in confrontation. In assessing escalation tactics next time, we should consider how our own feelings structure the kinds of actions we want to take.

### 3. Organization, decision-making, and conflict

In the encampments U&S members observed and participated in, occupations generally took 1 to 5 days of planning before the initial action. (The exception was the Columbia encampment, which appeared to have "dress rehearsals" through rallies and disruptions and took several months of planning.) At some universities, however, there had already been months-long to years-long relationships/collaborations with SJPs and other groups on campus; at other campuses, there were relatively weak histories of Palestinian solidarity organizations.

For occupations that had a solid foundation of relationships, it seems that they were able to handle the stress test of repression and continue to organize, or bounced back quickly. More on this below. For those that didn't have that foundation, it seemed that those coalitions could crumble once the state started to lash out with violence. Does this mean more time should be spent in the planning practicing, or relationship building before an action, especially on campuses not having a history of collaboration with different groups on Palestinian solidarity? Should a history of collaboration (or lack thereof) determine what kind of actions a coalition should/could take? From our experiences, it seems that more so than specific pre-planning, building relationships of trust was key to developing

encampments which could respond to a constantly changing political environment.

Inevitably, conflicts between participants arose in these highly pressurized environments. For some encampments, there were no containers to hold these tensions, whether they were pre-existing or developed through the course of struggle. One tension that loomed in some encampments was how the occupations would interact with administrations. For example in Emory, the more radical wing seemed sidelined and helpless to prevent more liberal elements from engaging with admin and preventing escalation.

Tensions around race were also present in many encampments, from the perception of a lack of centering of Palestinian and Black voices, to outright anti-Black racism, to questions of safety for Black and Brown participants as repression became increasingly severe. Racial fault lines - including between Black and non-Black organizers, Palestinian and non-Palestinian POC organizers, and white and Black organizers - were present at many camps, though the political/tactical allegiances of different racial groups were not always consistent. For example, at some camps, people of color called for less militant tactics, seeing escalation as a form of white adventurism, while at other camps, people of color tended to represent the more militant wing. A myriad of contradictions present in the encampments sometimes led to a crumbling of trust and divisions between participants based on racial difference.

For example, at one university, the occupation was planned by a mix of students and nonstudents, but when it popped off, the nonstudents were rejected for their tactical choices and perceived as 'white anarchists.' Without a larger core of student support, and with the rejection of nonstudents, the occupation was unable to sustain itself. Alternatively, at another university, the radical faction arguing for more escalatory tactics was comprised mostly of Palestinian and other students of color. This group had to contend with a more

moderate wing, more interested in negotiation and keeping the encampment closed to outsiders, and interpreted this as a function of their whiteness and elite university privilege.

At the heart of these conflicts was a strategic question: To hold a certain terrain, to push certain demands on certain powers, who needs to be at the center? Across campuses, differences in tactical approaches were interpreted in terms of racial divides, insider and outsider, though not always in the same way.

#### 4. Encampment model, repression, and safety

The encampment model, most recently widely utilized in the 2011 Occupy Wall Street movement, developed in a previous era in which the right to protest in public space was more widely accepted. After years of heavily militarized repression against Black liberation movements (Movement for Black Lives, the 2014-2015 Ferguson uprising, the 2016 Baltimore uprising, the 2020 national George Floyd Uprising), militarized domestic police tactics against protests has become standard. The encampment model itself may rely on bourgeois norms of public protest that have been eroded in recent years in some cities, especially those with large militarized police forces (such as NYC and Atlanta). While much thought went into safety planning at the encampments, we want to ask: in an era in which the state is willing to embrace violent repression against the children of the bourgeoisie, what degree of tactical training or student defense would have been able to withstand the NYPD's violent seizure of Hind's Hall?

Of course, not all encampments were cleared as immediately and spectacularly. In Humboldt, the Cal Poly encampment found itself able to hold space for longer, as local police had to coordinate with nearby police forces to have the numbers to break the building takeover. Every encampment had to assess its numbers, its mass appeal, and its preparedness, and at the same time compare these numbers

with the size, power, and political support of the local police to crack down. How might these assessments lead to tactical retreat or tactical flexibility in the future?

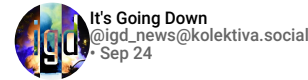
That's not to say there is no such thing as preparing for risks—many encampments used a color-coded system to identify who was willing to take certain kinds of risks or sized up the chances of repression and got out people who didn't want to risk their jobs or safety. But as encampments continued and escalated, concerns about safety and repression sometimes centered around disparate force used against Palestinian, Black, and POC protestors.

Sometimes safety concerns were used to argue for a more conservative approach, to not escalate protest tactics. Other times, safety concerns were dismissed by white organizers who didn't appreciate the disparities in experiences. At a Southern university, Black and brown students called off a building occupation after somebody, presumably a white person, graffitied in the building. The failure to recognize that the occupation was a more militant tactic than graffiti, or perhaps the failure to recognize that this action would not enjoy student support, ironically emboldened a conservative approach. This begs the question of how nonstudent militants might better read the room and join up with others to steer movements towards more confrontational tactics.

Additionally, the question of safety in pro-Palestine student protest environments is a complicated one. The threat of Zionist violence, and institutionalized Zionist power, raises the stakes of what one might reasonably expect to face for protesting. For example, at Columbia students faced direct violence such as being targeted by a motorist and being sprayed with chemical weapons. Similarly, students can now expect to face repression backed by Columbia's Task Force on Anti-semitism, which made tamping down student protests its number one concern; there are more and more reports of Zionist students manipulating Title

Now that the camp is over, the connections you made in that space can become the foundation for taking further action together. As part of the movement for a free Palestine, you are now connected to thousands of people you have never met, in Davis and around the world, who will have your back when you decide to act. What would it mean to take those relationships, our connections to comrades known and unknown, and carry them forward into the fall within a framework of attack? We hope that the coming year will see bigger, bolder attacks on the university and its deathmaking. May the struggle generalize until there is no space that can contain us, until all walls and borders and checkpoints finally fall.

We'll see you out there.



"A Missouri man is set to be executed over a 1998 killing as numerous groups, including innocence advocates and the prosecution, say he likely did not commit the crime."

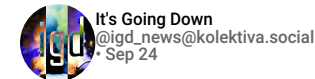
Williams' lawyers have argued that multiple errors were made during the trial including the prosecution's alleged mishandling of the murder weapon and alleged procedural errors in jury selection. They claim that a trial prosecutor wrongly excluded a potential Black juror for racial reasons."

#MarcellusWilliams

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/missouri-death-row-inmate-marcellus-144401320.html>



Missouri death row inmate Marcellus Williams faces execution today. Prosecutors argue he's likely innocent. Williams, 55, is scheduled to die by lethal injection at 6pm CT on Tuesday for the murder of Lisha Gayle, a social worker and former newspaper...



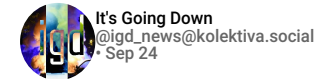
"As we acknowledge this legal victory, we also reflect on the ongoing repression of Cop City protests. Just days ago marked the one-year anniversary of the submission of over 116,000 signatures for a petition to initiate a referendum against Cop City—signatures that the city has refused to count. This comes amid a climate of escalating state violence, including the tragic killing of Manuel Esteban "Tortugueta" Paez Teran by police on January 18, 2023, and the violent raids on four houses in February 2024. Judge Kimberly Adams, presiding over the RICO case, has chastised state prosecutors for "gross negligence" over improper handling of evidence, and Dekalb County DA Sherry Boston previously publicly distanced herself from the Cop City prosecutions."

#StopCopCity #Atlanta

<https://itsgoingdown.org/atlanta-solidarity-fund-announces-dismissal-of-charges-condemns-state-repression/>



Atlanta Solidarity Fund Announces Dismissal of Charges, Condemns State Repression  
Statement from the Atlanta Solidarity Fund (ASF) on the recent dismissal charges on money laundering. For future updates, go here. The Atlan...



Don't the latest episode of #ThisIsAmerica, featuring resistance news, interviews, and deep-dive analysis.

<https://itsgoingdown.org/this-is-america-200/>



This Is America #200: Trump Pushes Racist Attack on Haitians in Ohio, Resistance Roundup  
Welcome, to This Is America, September 17th, 2024. On this episode, first we present an interview with a community member and participant in...



Antifascist research and community action in #Clarksville, #Tennessee forces resignation of neo-Nazi who attended 'Unite the Right' rally in Charlottesville.

"Days after his name was tied to white-supremacist propaganda accounts, Logan Smith has left Austin Peay State University. The exit comes after protests by students and community members in Clarksville. Smith joined APSU's Department of Psychological Science and Counseling as an assistant professor in August.

Smith was identified in April 2023 as the person behind multiple propaganda accounts publishing a broad range of hate speech, including praise for Adolf Hitler, attacks on minorities and support for the nuclear extermination of humanity. Sunlight Anti-Fascist Action, a self-identified "collective of anti fascist researchers," posted extensive documentation tying Smith to these accounts, which operated under the pseudonym "Levi" Smith."

[https://www.nashvillescene.com/news/white-supremacist-professor-allegations/article\\_60f3c6e6-79e3-11ef-aa07-6fd03080bb81.html](https://www.nashvillescene.com/news/white-supremacist-professor-allegations/article_60f3c6e6-79e3-11ef-aa07-6fd03080bb81.html)



Assistant Professor Leaves Austin Peay After White Supremacist Allegations  
University announces 'mutual' exit for Logan Smith after pressure campaign from students



community care, in a return of widely-discredited bromides best known as part of the Non-Profit-led liberal counterinsurgency during the George Floyd Uprising.

Of course, the notion that nonviolence successfully prevents repression is questionable at best; as we saw at many campuses across the country, administrators do not need an excuse to send in the cops. Certainly there is little support for the idea that policy-compliant protest gets the goods. However, given the spectacular displays of police violence that took place at Columbia, UCLA, and elsewhere, the encampment's attempts to avoid repression were understandable. No one wants to see their friends brutalized by police or summoned by Student Judicial Affairs. At other campuses, Palestinians and other Arab students were targeted by administrators for retaliation, including suspensions and bans from campus, with those who were perceived as leaders often singled out for harsher punishment. It is also true that marginalized groups, especially people of color and trans people, face increased risks of police violence and mistreatment during arrest and detention. As we have written elsewhere, the question of how to act in response to the reality of differential risk is one that all liberatory movements must work through, and the UC Davis encampment was no exception.

Neither can Cops Off Campus be an exception, and as we continue to work through this question, we believe that the solution cannot lie in eliminating risk; it has to lie, we believe, in the willingness to take those risks together, in a genuinely collective way that involves the whole community and builds on the capacities each person in it offers. Solidarity is a vexed and, to some, even emptied-out term, but if it holds meaning for us, it is standing together to face risk and do what needs to be done. Solidarity to us means not only acting together disruptively but also acting together to defend those facing violence and repression. If the camp's attitude toward collective risk was one factor that led it toward collaboration and compliance, then maybe a different

approach to risk is called for, one that allows us to better stay outside of administrative control.

That kind of collective approach to risk allows for attack rather than collaboration. It might seem at this point that we are talking about "escalation," especially since this was what the camp sought to prevent. But this term, too, has drawn critiques, and so we want to think a little more about what we mean. *Escalate* is a word derived through back-formation from *escalator*, which was coined by the Otis Elevator Company to market its moving staircase. It is a trade-word, a word of department stores, the end of *flânerie* at the hands of inexorable transactionality. So instead of using it, we're going to tear into its segments like an orange and pull out its ancient seed: *scale*. We approach the different forms of attack that collective risk allows us not as escalation, then, but as experiments with scale.

Scale is a staircase and scale is a measure that can keep moving outward or inward. To scale out means, for us, disrupting larger parts of campus, treating the encampment as a base, not a space, and attacking in ways that exceed whatever bounds the largest circle of the administration may attempt to set. One familiar principle of abolitionist discourse has become its emphasis on building things up rather than breaking them down, a talking point that allays fear, that mitigates the sense of risk. But the breaking down has to happen for the new worlds to be realized fully. In this process, it seems important to take physical, material space that the university's daily operations need - the staircase, the building - but attack is at the same time not just about taking the space, about territoriality. Attack means not only creating and defending alternate spaces, but generating force to push beyond them against the next layer that needs to be toppled and destroyed. Thinking about strategy spatially in this way might also mean asking whether radiating from a center, or even from multiple points considered centers in some way, will accomplish these ends.

Scaling out also directs us to the networks of solidarity that exist

beyond our campus, connecting the encampment movement to the larger struggle for a free Palestine. This broader vision is most apparent when we consider the international scope of this struggle - the fact that we must act in solidarity with people on the other side of the globe - but it also applies to those directly outside the university's walls, whose exclusion through policing defines the university as a separate space. These larger networks make possible autonomous actions taken by students and nonstudents alike. For example, when an anonymous group attacked the UCOP building, they did so independently of any encampment, yet their actions intensified the encampment movement's exposure of universities as enablers of genocide. If any movement is to grow into a mass mobilization equal to the scale of the horrors it opposes, it must eventually be taken up by people its originators have not met and may never meet. These people will necessarily act autonomously, calibrating their strategy based on their own capacity and local conditions. To grow, a movement does not have to be centralized; it can embrace these autonomous actions as the vehicle by which the struggle can spread, even when these actions assume risks and face repression that other formations within the movement are unwilling or unable to do themselves. Scaling out beyond ourselves asks us to embrace those who scale up the intensity of attacks against genocide, to celebrate those willing to take necessary risks, and to support those who face repression. Being part of an international movement asks us to support the most radical elements of our own movement so as to better reflect the scale of violence and bravery of struggle happening elsewhere.

For those of us at the encampment, the weeks spent together were a time of collective growth and learning, and we forged bonds of friendship and trust that have lasted beyond the camp's dissolution. If you participated in the encampment, whether you attended a single teach-in or stayed for the duration, you became part of a community and saw a glimpse of another world, however fleeting.

VI compliance to get staff or faculty fired; and in at least one case students have started suing the university for "lost time" in class due to protests, setting a prescient of financial consequences for allowing protests to continue. On the one hand, the space Zionists are given to commit direct violence, and shape administration-led repression opens up doors to discrimination that particularly affects students of color, Muslim and hijabi students the most. On the other, anyone openly fighting in solidarity with Palestine is a potential target.

Lastly, the encampment movements have struggled to balance objective threats of safety with their ability to organize. Many questions have come up around how to integrate the hundreds of newly activated campus organizers while maintaining a high level of security. In most cases, students are prioritizing safety over pragmatism, for example creating and burning endless numbers of chats, setting admin-only posting permissions, and setting expectations that decisions be made very quickly among small numbers of people. While the spirit of such decisions is to protect one another, all of these examples have down sides, such as making chat admins and student leaders more vulnerable, unable to reproduce themselves with new organizers, unable to share information quickly or effectively, and tends toward an authoritarianism many in the movement grow to resent. In many cases the secrecy and endless lists of "best security practices" are simply not rooted in reality. While the balance between security and ability to organize is always a difficult tension to navigate, and is one that exists generally on the left beyond the student intifada. However, it is important for organizers to ask themselves why they are taking certain precautions, if it these precautions are based in a material assessment of the security threats they are currently facing or might expect to face, and how these measures will support organizing, rather than hinder it.

## 5. Bourgeois Rights or

## Free Palestine?

Through national chats, online comments and posts, and on-the-ground discussions, a tension developed between centering Palestinian liberation and engaging with eroding bourgeois norms or rights.

The demand to focus on Palestine and not focus on the rights to protest, free speech, or assembly was widespread. We applaud the resistance to collapse the student intifada into discourses about liberal rights.

At one university, students invited in non-students to help plan and carry out the occupation but stressed that the occupation would stay centered on Palestine. When repression came down, students rejected support from faculty when that support focused on students' right to protest at the expense of focusing on Palestinian liberation. This decision begged the question of how to form alliances while holding down some core principles and not losing the political content. It also raised questions about the role of labor. Faculty and staff defending what they might view as workers' rights (right to dissent, right to assemble) and organizing within a repressive labor context (a 'right to work' state, weak tenure protections) offered support that fell short of student expectations. We raise that faculty and staff defense of bourgeois rights ultimately could be used as an organizing opportunity, to divide the enemy (the admin) and make allies who might later escalate with our support. This kind of defensive united front-making a base of support as broad as possible-can have broader political effects in cities or even nationally as opinions about mayors or police shift.

## Conclusion

These can be demoralizing times: despite the urgency and necessity to win and stop the genocide, the left has found itself struggle to find the tactics needed to achieve victory. But the student intifada radicalized large numbers of young people, producing a generation to have anti-

imperialism at the center of their politics, no easy feat in the United States. Perhaps we can think of it as a rehearsal to sharpen our collective skills. It will take many more battles to free Palestine.

Obviously, however, rehearsal is not sufficient. Again, there's urgency. The school year is just beginning. Some possible ways to continue to wage the struggle: militants could coordinate blockades of logistics infrastructure; a mass movement in the streets could erupt; continued campus organizing over summer to prepare for a militant fall. One potential new strategy we're already seeing are the rolling encampments at Columbia and UCLA in which students target particular events but disperse before arrests happen.

We would encourage students to not only study the movements that have come before them (including struggles more recent and potentially relevant than 1968 or 1985), but to pay close attention to the coordinated moves and countermoves we are starting to see nationally. For example, there may be some movement over time to further restrict democracy on campus (consider for example University of Kentucky's proposal to abolish its University Senate) - how might the student intifada respond by forcing new avenues of democracy on campus? A similar method could apply to targets and escalation plans - how might students work to identify and exploit fractures on campus rather than continue to make demands on immovable targets?

Additionally, the more layers students are able to bring into this fight the better. Not only does it make the movement for Palestine stronger, it opens up the spectre of what is possible on many fronts, which weakens the ruling class creates a stronger position for fights in the longer term. While we applaud the student intifada for keeping "all eyes on Palestine," organizers must remember that the fight for Palestine is not wholly separate from fights around unions or workplace issues, to reduce (or completely abolish!) the purview of police, to open up access to higher education to new layers, or finding meaningful ways of collaborating

with community groups, etc.

And, finally, we must keep our eyes on repression! What are the implications for the fact that there are no “safe” spaces to protest anymore, not even elite universities? Perhaps some will be scared, perhaps some will decide to move protest off the campus, perhaps some will become even more emboldened. This is all maybe dependent upon the outcome of pending court and expulsion cases, but either way it is something to track.

## Over 100 Gather Outside of Metropolitan Correctional Center for Running Down the Walls in Chicago, IL

September 19, 2024

Report back from “Running Down the Walls” event in so-called Chicago, IL.

On Sunday, over the course of the evening more than 100 people gathered in front of the Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC), Federal Bureau of Prisons, in solidarity with those held inside and political prisoners everywhere.

People from the age of 6 months to lord knows how old, rolled, walked, and ran laps around the MCC in an effort to raise awareness and struggle alongside those in cages in the heart of downtown Chicago. Banners read “ACAB,” “Running Down the Walls,” “Stop Cop Cites,” and much more.



Dozens of windows of the prison were filled with hands waving,

lights flicking on and off, and flash lights blinking back down on the crowd of people gathering in solidarity below. A green laser flashed up at the windows letting each person in the window know that we saw them.

Punk bands, including [Glutton for Insurrection](#), played and we moshed in the intersection of the street. When the DJs went on we danced. Taking up the intersection of Van Buren for a time but also yielding to the caravans of cars celebrating Mexican Independence day. Honks were shared between riotous attendees of these disparate energies.

Coalescing into a rowdy vibe, attendees to Running Down the Walls launched fireworks and threw cans of garbanzo beans at a life sized paper mache police officer. Police hovered around and looked down on us from nearby buildings, but their numbers were thinned due to their over policing of a Mexican Independence Day celebration nearby.

## NYPD Out of the MTA

September 19, 2024

Report on direct action in New York following mass police shooting. [Originally posted to social media.](#)

Tonight, New Yorkers stood up for their community and protested the expansion and impunity of the police occupation of their city. Last Sunday, the NYPD shot Derrell Mickles and three others after Mickles entered the platform through the emergency exit at the Sutter Ave. station in Brownsville—committing a mass shooting in one of New York City’s poorest neighborhoods.

In response, hundreds of city residents conducted a mass fare evasion at the West 4th station, hopping the turnstiles to say clearly that no one should be killed for not having \$2.90, that in fact the subway should be free—and free of cops.

For their part, the NYPD were once again humiliated and shown to be paper tigers when confronted by the ingenuity and mass action of the city. As dozens streamed through the gates, onto the platforms, and into the different subway cars, cops brutalized and arrested those few they could get their hands on. The people are undeterred and are committed to maintaining this form of mass action in the weeks to come.

An institution founded from the slave patrols past, the NYPD protects property and capital, it funnels black and immigrant populations into endless cycles of immiseration and poverty and modern enslavement.

Our cities are under occupation: cop training facilities are flourishing all across America—we have one in our backyard near College Point Queens. These facilities advance and refine strategies of repression and counterinsurgency, so as to ensure that no mass action against oppression, incarceration, and depredation will be allowed to exist.

We must end this. Out of the homes and into the streets. Live free, ride free, fuck the NYPD.

*photo: [Screenshoot via Oliya Scootercaster](#)*

## Atlanta Solidarity Fund Announces Dismissal of Charges, Condemns State Repression

September 18, 2024

Statement from the Atlanta Solidarity Fund (ASF) on the recent dismissal charges on money laundering. For future updates, [go here.](#)

The Atlanta Solidarity Fund (ASF) announces that all 15 counts of money laundering against the ASF 3 have been dropped as of yesterday, marking another serious setback to the already troubled

not welcome. We wondered - does this mean that cops are not welcome here to harm us, or cops are not welcome here to help us? Was there a clear principle or was it pick and choose? Doubtless large numbers of campers, acting from abolitionist principles, did not want the cops to do either. At the same time, though, it seems likely that, for the cops to guarantee that they would not violently sweep the camp (which they never did), they would demand acceptance of collaboration, cooperation, and self-policing.

The parameters of what collaboration might look like were laid out on the first day of the encampment. In Gary May’s [opening message](#) about the encampment, he reassured the campus that his administration was “actively engaging the students to mitigate any disruption of campus operations, including access to classrooms, work areas, study spaces or residence halls.” This statement is followed directly by Gary’s insistence that UC Davis allows “peaceful protest” and will “not discipline students for speech protected by the First Amendment.” The juxtaposition of these two statements implies that free speech would be allowed so long as it remained speech only and did not disrupt the regular activities of the university. One is free to philosophize about the world if one promises not to change it. Moreover, the administration’s unremitting anxiety that campus movements might find themselves in communication, alliance, and coordination with other humans — referred to formalistically as “non-affiliates” and dishonestly as “outside agitators” — meant that the encampment, as part of the tacit détente with Gary and his implicit line of cops, was obliged to make sure no members of the public breached this encampment at a public university.

The administration’s role as both ally and adversary is clear here, with Gary May both the power that can send in the police and the power that can supposedly promise shelter against those same police, so long as the campers follow his rules. In the weeks following Gary’s first message, an uneasy truce emerged,

in which the camp kept the peace and the administration refrained from sweeping it. This truce was vouchsafed by encampment leadership’s constant communication with Student Affairs and, through them, campus police. If the space within the encampment walls existed as a microcosm of a world without police, a quick glance over the walls reveals that camp leadership maintained this appearance only by integrating the encampment into the larger fabric of policing that surrounded them — by talking to administrators, cooperating with “campus safety” apparatuses, and agreeing to self-police. As some friends once wrote, “a free university in the midst of a capitalist society is like a reading room in a prison.” By the same token, a free encampment in the midst of circles of policing....

As vibes go, what radiated from the camp most of the time was a sense of peacefulness and useful activity. To preserve this status quo, the camp did not allow engagement with the counter protesters who showed up. The camp security team worked to “de-escalate” these situations, which involved [ignoring](#) counter protesters’ attempts to engage while monitoring them, documenting them, and preventing others from engaging in more militant defense. Campers were instructed to leave potential threats to security rather than responding themselves; defying the no-engagement rule could result in exclusion from the camp. Here again, the directionalities of power that maintained this sense of peace become important to notice. For one thing, the no-engagement rule originated from the encampment center but then emanated outward to legislate the behavior of people beyond the encampment itself all over the quad. For another, with the campers not permitted to participate in active defense themselves, policing - a defining function of the administration - became the condition of possibility for the camp’s continued existence, the alternative to broadly-based collective defense. And if this wider circle of policing was actual rather than theoretical - a kind of net to catch randos bobbing around in the open green space - then what else

might it catch? Could it equally ensnare comrades acting autonomously to oppose the university’s complicity in the genocide?

In addition to the rule against engaging with counter-protesters, there was another rule, not written on any sign but no less binding: no escalation without encampment leadership’s permission. Importantly, this agreement did not just apply to encampment participants, but also influenced the entire campus community. In conversations inside and outside the camp, campers and their supporters heard that actions not approved by PULP leadership (and later UAW4811) would be denounced, leaving the perpetrators exposed to retaliation from administrators and encampment allies alike. Like the no-engagement rule, this rule both emanated from the center of the quad to affect the entire campus and reflected back an administrative priority. So when campus fell quiet for the duration of the encampment, with no major disruptions happening outside of its purview, many counted this state of affairs a [successful camp-campus relationship](#) for the rest of the system to emulate. All this despite the many calls for escalation flowing from Gaza and elsewhere.

The encampment’s disapproval of escalation developed in response to the specific conditions of the encampment. Escalation might risk breaking the uneasy truce with the administration, which would in turn encourage Gary to send in campus police. In the analysis of some encampment decision-makers, escalation increased the risk of police response, posing particular danger to marginalized and precarious camp members, and would potentially divert capacity and resources away from the camp itself. Direct action could also be blamed on encampment leaders, who would then receive the brunt of the repression regardless of whether they were involved. For these reasons, the possibility that someone might occupy a building or cause property destruction represented a threat, not to the administration, but to marginalized camp members. Risk aversion was effectively repackaged as



read (although of course police violence entered many encampments).

In supporting Palestinian liberation, we have seen how deeply connected are campus policing apparatuses to military entities abetting what happens in Palestine, from the two-way trade between the US and the Zionist entity in policing and surveillance, to the use of policing to repress dissent from their shared policy of genocide. We recognized how the forces of policing that pressed in on American encampments were always present, even when not spectacularly visible. We wanted to ask: what can that reality teach us about whether and how a movement in the imperial core can stand in solidarity with those fighting against their own genocide across the world?

The UC Davis encampment was set up on our main Quad, a flat, grassy space of a few acres, surrounded by various campus buildings including the main library, but not adjacent to the main administrative building. The encampment was a circular space with a perimeter of banners and fabric that grew in size as more students enthusiastically showed their solidarity and participated. Potential campers were asked to register (giving name and contact information) at a table set at entrances in the perimeter. Inside the encampment were medic support, mutual aid, food and water, and various forms of political education that - excitingly - featured instructors from all over Turtle Island. Like many other American encampments, the interior showed what a campus could feel like if it were a truly free space of education, basic needs addressed for all, tasks and chores shared by the community so everyone could learn together in a space of mutual care. And as a result, many connections of deep trust were forged through the interactions the encampment made possible.

Outside the encampment was the rest of the Quad, open to the entire university community and the public, around it on all sides. This configuration made the encampment visible and easy to

approach. Most seeing and approaching the encampment came to show support. But the layout also made it easy for bad actors — Zionists, white supremacists — to roll up. Because the configuration was vulnerable to harassment and threat thereof, the encampment had its own security force posted at intervals around the outside of the circular soft barrier.

Seen and described this way, the encampment appears as a series of concentric circles, with the camp itself at the center and a set of circular barriers extending outward to protect it from harm. It also seems intuitive to understand the camp as a center from which sound, visual messaging, and action — politics, let's say — emanated to influence and change what was around it, like ripples on a pond.

However, this set of circles can also be viewed in the other direction, from the outside inward, and from the least obviously visible to the most. The largest circle on campus is cast by the Chancellor, Gary May, a circle of abstract power executed by administrators, trustees, and regents who, as we'll discuss, framed the encampment by regulating its strategies. Inside that circle were the various cop and para-cop forms that populate the campus: UCDPD, Core Officers, Student Affairs, anyone potentially deployed by the Gary circle to keep an eye on things. These cops never entered the camp itself and were largely invisible, but their representatives materialized readily outside when disorder seemed to loom. Inside that circle was what might then seem an entirely other order of security force, appointed by the camp itself. These were the aforementioned camp members who patrolled the outside of the camp circle. Reinforcing them in their task to keep threats out was the soft barricade surrounding the tents. And inside the soft barricade was the community space of the camp and the concrete circle that marks the center of the Quad, decorated with chalk messages for Palestinian liberation.

On the surface, then, power appears to move in two seemingly antagonistic directions - protest and disruption emanating outward

from the encampment, and administrative power moving inward to stifle and contain it. However, the communication with administration that was built into the encampment's structure resulted in these two directionalities of power cooperating rather than remaining opposed. This cooperation resolved the tension between antagonism and compliance on the side of compliance, such that even what was offered or perceived as opposition had already been caught up in the vector of the university's overall mission: maintaining law and order.

In its approach to the outer edge of administrative power, the camp employed a demands-based political strategy. As *Research and Destroy* notes in their analysis of the encampment movement, this strategy places the camp within the admin's regulatory parameters. As R&D continues, having a discrete set of demands was a feature of the national wave of encampments, focused as it was on winning divestment not exactly against but *from* the administration. They note therefore that having "specific and limited demands that must be won from an authority empowered to deliver them" required the encampments to both recognize and negotiate with that authority, treating the administrations as legitimate partners in a dialogue. In turn, the camps presented themselves as reasonable negotiators acting in good faith. The university and its administrators were therefore positioned as both adversary and ally, at once perpetrators of genocide and potential partners in opposing it. Although the list of demands originated from within the camp as a way to change the administration's policies, that utterance ultimately redounded upon the camp, influencing their positions and actions and their effect on the larger surround.

The demand structure influenced many aspects of the encampment, even down to the community agreements that regulated life inside the camp. One of these agreements was that the camp was to remain police-free, with a sign near the entrance declaring that cops were

indictment brought by the Georgia Attorney General's office against Stop Cop City activists.

"This is a recognition of what we, police, and prosecutors have known for a long time: we run a legitimate nonprofit, not a money laundering operation, and there has never been any evidence otherwise." said Marlon Kautz, one of the three ASF defendants.

Over the course of the Stop Cop City movement, there have been over 100 arrests, a testament to the lengths authorities will go to silence dissent. Adele MacLean, another ASF defendant, said "What's shocking is that the authorities have gotten this far before having to admit they have no case. They conducted extensive invasive surveillance against us and other organizers, authorized a militarized SWAT raid on our home, jailed us, closed ASF's bank accounts and cut us off from donors—all under the false pretense that we were laundering money."

Dismissing these charges does nothing to undo the harm inflicted on ASF and the many political protesters whose lives have been drastically impacted. Kautz explained "Prosecutions against political movements are not a pursuit of justice. They are a weaponization of a legal system designed to control and disempower the poor, the Black, the indigenous, and other marginalized people. Today, it's being used to crush dissent against Cop City. Unless we all stand up against the continuing political prosecution of activists, this same strategy will be used against social movements again and again."

The ASF 3 still face a baseless RICO charge, along with 58 other activists. ASF continues to support anyone targeted for political repression. Kautz said "This case is far from over, but we are committed to fighting these charges in solidarity with all other Cop City defendants, until everyone is free. We believe that we will win."

As we acknowledge this legal victory, we also reflect on the ongoing repression of Cop City protests. Just days ago marked the

one-year anniversary of the submission of over 116,000 signatures for a petition to initiate a referendum against Cop City—signatures that the city has refused to count. This comes amid a climate of escalating state violence, including the tragic killing of Manuel Esteban "Tortugueta" Paez Teran by police on January 18, 2023, and the violent raids on four houses in February 2024. Judge Kimberly Adams, presiding over the RICO case, has chastised state prosecutors for "gross negligence" over improper handling of evidence, and Dekalb County DA Sherry Boston previously publicly distanced herself from the Cop City prosecutions.

Image by Jörg Husemann from Pixabay

## This Is America #200: Trump Pushes Racist Attack on Haitians in Ohio, Resistance Roundup

September 18, 2024

Welcome, to *This Is America*, September 17th, 2024.

On this episode, first we present an interview with a community member and participant in the local Really Really Free Market in Carrboro, North Carolina. We speak about the event's history, and how people have pushed back against attempts by the city to shut it down.

Next, we present a brief discussion with someone on the recent violent arrests following a "die-in" for Palestine at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, with one of the people arrested at the scene. We talk about the significance of these arrests in the broader context of the student movement for Palestine in Michigan, and the myth of the "outside agitator." For a full report back on the event, go here.



### Carrboro Really Really Free Market

We then speak with long-time anarchist organizer Matt Hart, a member of the Anarchist Black Cross Federation in Los Angeles, about Running Down the Walls events happening across so-called North America and beyond, and the importance of the ABC's warchest program, which you can donate to here.

Finally, during our discussion we talk about the recent white supremacist attacks on the Haitian community and beyond in Springfield, OH, which have been spurred by a collection of neo-Nazi groups and viral misinformation campaigns, leading to a wave of bomb threats a month after a similar operation kicked off far-Right pogroms in the UK.

All this and more, *but first, let's get to the news!*

## Living and Fighting



Vigils and protests took place across the world after the murder of International Solidarity Movement (ISM) activist AyŞenur Eygi (Eyesha-nore Ey-gi) by Israeli forces in the West Bank of occupied Palestine. AyŞenur was reportedly involved in the wave of student protests this summer in solidarity with Palestine and also took part in resistance to DAPL at Standing Rock.

From a [press release from the ISM](#):

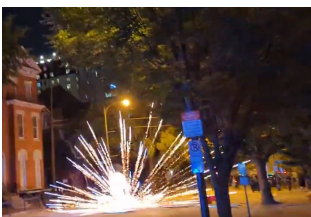
During the weekly demonstration in Beita, Palestine, on the morning of September 6th, 2024, the Israeli army intentionally shot and killed an International Solidarity Movement (ISM) human rights activist named Ayşenur Eygi.

The demonstration, which primarily involved men and children praying, was met with force from the Israeli army stationed on a hill. Initially, the army fired a large amount of tear gas and then began using live ammunition. Ayşenur, who we consider a martyr in the struggle, was the 18th demonstrator to be killed in Beita since 2020. She was an American citizen of Turkish descent.

The Israeli forces fired two rounds. One hit a Palestinian man in the leg, injuring him. The other round was fired at international human rights activists who were observing the demonstration, striking a human rights activist in the head. Eygi died shortly after being transported to a local hospital in Nablus.

In recent months, international activists have experienced a sharp increase in violence from Israeli forces and the occupation must be held accountable for this. The woman martyred today was an activist with the International Solidarity Movement (ISM), a Palestinian-led organization that provides protective presence and solidarity in the West Bank. The ISM was founded in 2002, and has maintained a steady presence in Palestine ever since, supporting the Palestinian popular struggle against the occupation.

Read the [full statement here](#).



In Richmond, Virginia, according to a press release [published by the Escalate Network](#), over 100 demonstrators clashed with police as protesters attempted to march on the Virginia Israel Advisory Board. [As a post on social media reported](#) “Police cruiser windows [were] broken, fireworks thrown, [and] barricades burned, as over 100 Palestine solidarity protesters defend one another from police attacks...”



In Manhattan, NY, a [communiqué posted online](#) [read](#), “An autonomous group...hit six Manhattan [Citibank locations] on Sunday night to remind corporate ONCE AGAIN that there is NO BUSINESS AS USUAL DURING A GENOCIDE. We epoxied card readers and door locks and covered them with cement-glued stickers.”



Also in New York, the *Escalate Network* reported that, “Dozens of black-clad protesters erect[ed] barricades, vandalize[d] israeli-linked targets while chanting slogans against the US-Israel war in Palestine and the “Cop City” campus NYC Mayor Eric Adams wants to build in Queens.” Independent movement journalist

[Ash J reported](#) “Protesters redecorated corporate property at places like T-Mobile & Google with anti-colonial artwork. NYPD later showed up & brutally arrested people regardless of whether they actually did anything.”

A [communiqué from the action read](#):

Aysenur Eygi did not deserve to die, while not the first, we know she won't be the last. Even though her death was at the hands of the IOF, the rifle and bullet they fired were made and supplied under the orders of Biden And YOU.

Meanwhile, corrupt mayor Eric Adams and his allies cut community funding, line their pockets, and starve New Yorkers. We, this NYC black bloc, made up of revolutionary New Yorkers, will feed them.

In this city corporate greed reigns, and the interests of landlords, hedge funds, and the rich elites fuels every crisis. They've spent decades militarizing the NYPD, building cop cities, sending them abroad to train with the IOF, investing and donating mass surveillance tech, pushing budget cuts, and funding every other piece of their police state. All on the dime of poor working class New Yorkers, and all of it to keep your fellow New Yorkers brutalized, isolated, starved, and exploitable. Manipulating us to blame migrants, and to bring back the militarized ICE into our neighborhoods, all while turning our precious city into a personal playground for the rich and powerful, inevitably ending with the destruction of our communities, the dispossession of its people, and their displacement. Leaving cheap pockets of labor to exploit and cater to their every need.

But no more! We call on all New Yorkers to join us in the streets, to take action like we have, and put an end to this police state, this corrupt administration, the corporate greed, and the suffering so many of us have endured by their hands. To Eric Adams, his admin, the NYPD, and their

In the closing arguments at trial, deputy DA Cutino claimed that rather than truthfully reporting on the growing rise of fascist political violence and hate, journalists like Alissa Azar must ignore their professional duties as reporters and instead just “drive on by” undemocratic hate-filled public gatherings of Proud Boys — gatherings where, like the one resulting in Azar's arrest, violent assaults are openly being committed against people who disagree with their troubling views. The prosecutor's suggestion is especially galling considering that Ms. Azar focuses her reporting on activities of extreme right-wing hate groups. In addition to this outrageous claim, the State of Oregon falsely attempted to create moral and legal equivalency between fascist and anti-fascist groups, claiming they are equally violent and culpable, when studies of the last decade show this to be patently false (Seth G. Jones, 2020). Though the jury found Ms. Azar guilty of Riot and Disorderly Conduct, it was deadlocked on the charge of Unlawful Use of Mace—the actual “violent and tumultuous conduct” required to establish Riot and/or Disorderly conduct. Ms. Azar, after being sprayed with mace, was forced to spray mace in self-defense. This occurred while she was attempting to recover her property that had been stolen by Proud Boys and their affiliates. At sentencing, the Court merged the Disorderly and Riot convictions into a single Riot conviction, as required by law.

In a packed courtroom full of Ms. Azar's supporters and fellow journalists, Judge Van Rhysellberghe sentenced Ms. Azar to 14 days in jail and 36 months of probation. She was stoic and poised while being immediately led from the courtroom in handcuffs. Before pronouncing the sentence, the judge stated there were several mitigating factors to be considered in Ms. Azar's sentencing, including the fact that Ms. Azar was seriously injured that day by Proud Boy and convicted violent felon, Gordon Cronk, Jr.; that she had no prior convictions; and that she was involved in extensive community

service work. He believed, however, that aggravating factors included her refusal to admit that she was a participant in the riot, and that he believed she had not shown an appropriate amount of empathy for the Clackamette Park Host and others who witnessed the Proud Boy initiated violence. This, despite the fact that the park host testified at trial that Proud Boys were vicious thugs, while the “Antifa” folks looked like “goth kids” in comparison. The park host testified that Proud Boy Daniel Tooze, who is also the Vice Chair of the Clackamas County Republican Party, told her in advance of the event that Proud Boys were amassing to engage in brutal violence against any counter-protestors that showed up that day. Tooze kept his word, as this is exactly what unfolded. The park host ended up being a witness in support of Alissa Azar and her version of events despite being called as a state's witness.

“This sentence is an unprecedented and chilling punishment for a journalist covering a far-right rally and counter demonstration - even if that demonstration is deemed a riot by responding officers. Ms. Azar intends to appeal her case to the Oregon Court of Appeals.” Said Lauren Regan of Civil Liberties Defense Center, Ms. Azar's attorney.

During trial, attorney Regan pointed out that in previous eras when fascist thought and violence were clearly on the rise, as they are today, “driving on by” fascist and extreme right violence led to some of the darkest days of genocide and oppression in history. Ms. Regan went on to explain the emboldening effect that turning the other cheek can and will have on fascist and neo-Nazi violent rhetoric and action, particularly in less urban areas. Expert witness Shane Burley, a journalist and author with extensive experience researching and reporting on far-right extremists like the Proud Boys, testified that most journalists wear ballistic gear, and larger media outlets have security personnel accompany journalists when they cover Proud Boy events, because Proud Boys repeatedly target and assault journalists they view as

adverse to their cause. Ms. Azar has herself been violently attacked several times by Proud Boys, who also target women, people of color, and people they view as “antifascists.”

Following Ms. Azar's conviction, she stated, “Justice was not delivered in the Clackamas County courthouse today. This verdict sets a dangerous precedent not just for journalists, but for anyone who wishes to stand up and witness or report on hateful and fascist rhetoric.”

Photo by [Wesley Tingey](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## From the Camp to the Campus: Reflections on the UC Davis Encampment

September 10, 2024

Report and analysis on the encampment in solidarity with Palestine at UC Davis. Originally posted to [UC Davis Cops off Campus](#).

The worldwide mobilization in solidarity with Palestine defined 2024 for many campuses and communities. From the first tent pitched to the last one taken down — willingly or by force — many participants in and observers of encampments have written reportbacks and communiqués about how the encampments functioned, politically and practically, and where they encourage us to go next. With some of our members involved in the encampment at UC Davis, Cops Off Campus has wanted to offer its own thoughts. Recognizing that so many important points have already been made, though, we hoped to avoid replicating the work of others. So we decided to speak specifically as a group engaged in the movement to abolish police, in part because it is more clear than ever that all campus liberation movements are certain to encounter the police as a limit in their struggles, and in part because this has not been a perspective fully inhabited in the writings we have



## "Shake in Your Boots Bureaucrats!": Resistance, Recuperation, and the Legacy of the Situationists

September 11, 2024

In this episode of the *It's Going Down* podcast, with speak with Bill Brown, author of the publication *Not Bored*, about the history and enduring legacy of the Situationist International (SI). The SI was a small group of autonomous anti-capitalists, based largely in France, who in the 1950s and 1960s, developed a sweeping critique of contemporary consumer society, which they described as "the Spectacle," which continues to resonate today as the internet has come to dominate much of our lives.



During our discussion, we cover the concept of "the Spectacle," and also Situationist ideas around recuperation, their critique of the Left, and how they popularized various forms of what has come to be known as "culture jamming." We also speak with Bill about the history of the SI and its role in the events of May 1968 in France, where protests and university occupations helped to kick off a wave of mass wildcat strikes that almost brought down the French government. We then turn and talk about how Situationist ideas were picked up by a new generation of anarcho-punks in the US, and how this influenced currents within the squatting movement in New York in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

The Situationists remain a massive cornerstone in anti-capitalist thought and practice in the post-war period, having influenced a wide range of anarchist and autonomist tendencies along with subversive currents within graffiti, art, underground music, and film.

Some of the texts mentioned in the podcast include:

- [\*Society of the Spectacle\*](#)
- [\*The Revolution of Everyday Life\*](#)
- [\*On the Poverty of Student Life\*](#)
- [\*The Decline and Fall of the Spectacle-Commodity Economy\*](#)
- [\*Enragés and Situationists in the Occupations Movement\*](#)
- [\*Worker-Student Action Committees\*](#)
- [\*War in the Neighborhood\*](#)

More Info: [\*Not Bored\*](#) website, interview with [Bill](#) on [the Antifada podcast](#), and [An Introduction to the Situationists](#)

## Anti-Eviction Action at a Landlord's Home in Montreal

September 10, 2024

Report from the Montreal Autonomous Tenant Union (SLAM-MATU) on anti-eviction rally outside of the home of a landlord in so-called Montreal, QC.

An action at a landlord's house stopped an eviction!

The Montreal Autonomous Tenant Union (SLAM-MATU) organized a protest in front of a landlord's apartment after he threatened to change the locks on one of our fellow tenants by the first of the month. These eviction threats followed months of shouting, name-calling, and apartment visits by the owner.

After this collective act of solidarity, the landlord agreed to not change the apartment locks, and reduced some of the behaviours that were scaring the unit's tenants.

With evictions increasing, it is our job to collectively fight back against the propertied class of landlords who are becoming increasingly powerful and unrestrained. Our power is in numbers, coordination, direct action, and solidarity. This power will bring us wins in the short term and a liberatory revolution in the long run. Facing eviction? Don't move. Join our union and fight!

## Journalist Sentenced to 14 Days in Jail After Being Attacked at Proud Boy Rally

September 10, 2024

Statement from the Civil Liberties Defense Center (CLDC) on the sentencing of independent journalist, Alissa Azar.

For the first time in Oregon history, a Clackamas County Circuit Court Judge sentenced an independent journalist to 14 days in jail after she was convicted of Riot for reporting on a Proud Boy recruitment event that turned violent on June 18th, 2021. The jury trial concluded with a legally inconsistent jury verdict as a result of numerous errors of law by the State. The case will be appealed.

In a truly dystopian effort, deputy District Attorney Joshua Cutino asked the Court to sentence Ms. Azar, who has no prior convictions, up to 90 days in jail — more than the maximum allowed under the Oregon Sentencing Guidelines — and asked that Ms. Azar's phone and computer be monitored by the State while on probation — conditions that would clearly violate the Freedom of the Press and First Amendment. Similar sentences for Riot in Oregon normally result in community service or deferred prosecutions (diversion agreements). Oregon prosecutors generally dismiss charges against journalists arrested by police on the scene, recognizing that sometimes reporters are swept up in arrests while doing their job, and are not intending to participate in breaking the law.

financial and political allies, the Feds are encircling, they smell the rats nest, and so do we. Even if they don't stop you, the people are waking up, we're rising, and we'll be prepared to drive the final nail.

In San Francisco, CA, [NBC reported that](#):

San Francisco State University has pulled investments from three companies the university claims do not meet its human rights standards following demonstrations from pro-Palestinian activists and groups.

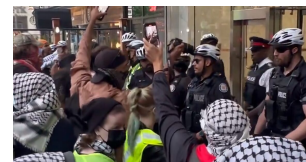
In the agreement reached with students, the university will sell its corporate bond position in aerospace and defense company Lockheed Martin, stock positions in Italian defense company Leonardo, and U.S.-based data analysis enterprise Palantir Technologies.

In Boston, MA, a third person, Matt Nelson, died after engaging in an act of self-immolation, in an effort to bring attention to the ongoing genocide and war in Gaza.

In Newton, MA, a [pro-Israel demonstrator shot and seriously injured a supporter of Palestine](#) after the man ran across the street and engaged in an altercation with the armed individual. The Twitter account of the shooter, [Scott Hayes](#), shows that he self-identified as a non-Jewish Zionist and called for "hot lead" to be used against pro-Palestinian demonstrators.

In Indiana, [resistance continues at the university in Bloomington](#), as students, faculty, and Palestinian solidarity activists continue to push back against draconian attempts to stifle action and speech on campus.

In so-called Canada, a [demonstration took place in Montreal outside of the home of the McGill university president](#) to demand they cut ties with Israel and in Toronto, students clashed with authorities during a [raucous divestment protest](#).



Clashes with police also broke out in Philadelphia, outside of the recent Presidential debate, as protesters pushed back against police attempts to repress demonstrators as graffiti slogans in solidarity with Palestine hit the walls. For a full report, see [Unicorn Riot](#).



In several neighborhoods in Washington DC, angry residents took to the streets following the release of video of the police murder of Justin Robinson, who was shot and killed by police while passed out in his vehicle following a crash. According to the [Washington Post](#):

Incidents of looting and vandalism broke out in the District late Monday and early Tuesday, according to the D.C. police, in what appeared to be a possible response to the release of video of a recent fatal shooting by officers.

The [rebellion] occurred in Georgetown, City Center and other parts of the city, according to a statement issued by the police. Incidents occurred in at least three other neighborhoods, the statement indicated.

[Police brutality and killings in the US have remained constant](#), and in 2023, "Police in the US killed at least 1,232 people last year, making 2023 the deadliest year for homicides committed by law enforcement in more than a decade," as the State rushes to build ["Cop City" facilities across the country](#), in an effort to beef up the ability of police to better suppress

future uprisings, in the wake of the George Floyd rebellion.

As this podcast was being finished, [protests have been called for later this week in New York](#), after the NYPD opened fire on a subway car after attempting to arrest a rider for non-payment of a \$2.90 fare. In the process, police shot two other people, one police officer, and killed the person accused of fare evasion. This mass shooting takes place against the backdrop of a growing corruption scandal which has already led to the police commissioner stepping down.

In Queens, New York, massive banners were dropped against a proposed "Cop City" project. According to a [communiqué posted online](#):

As of July 31 2024, there are 80 cop city projects in the works in 49 of 50 states, all of this against the backdrop of a for-profit penal system....In New York City, the concept of a cop city extends far beyond official training grounds, bleeding into all aspects of civilian life. Even before the greenlighting of Queens' \$225 million dollar pigsty, New Yorkers have been facing unprecedented levels of state repression, and relentless surveillance by a police force large and powerful enough to be considered a standing army.

The purported goal of Queens' cop city—set to break ground in 2026, in College Point—is to consolidate training for 18 city agencies, including the department of sanitation, homeless services, the administration for children's services, parks enforcement, and the department of corrections, among others; essentially, it aims to militarize city government workers. Meanwhile, Eric Adams is slashing hundreds of millions of dollars from homeless services, children's services and other programs that New Yorkers depend on—SNAP, medicaid, libraries, and rental vouchers, for example—in order to pad the nypd's already-bloated budget to

a record-breaking \$12 billion in 2025. We've all seen the increase of pigs in our communities, the national guard at subway stations, private security firms such as Allied partnering with the MTA. We've seen the blueprints for a 300-ft. high jail in Chinatown. We've seen an increase in violent sweeps of both street vendors and our homeless neighbors.

New Yorkers are already subject to unrelenting surveillance via private and state-sponsored security cameras, the use of police drones, the implementation of OMNY technology, which has the ability to track one's movements through public transit, AI-powered surveillance and facial recognition software in our subway systems. Similar surveillance technology, known as "Red Wolf," is used in the apartheid zionist state at military checkpoints to keep Palestinians under constant observation, and to restrict their freedom of movement. Every day, Palestinians are subjected to algorithmic tracking, often barred from entering their own neighborhoods based on information stored in discriminatory surveillance databases.

Read the [full communique here](#).



In antifascist news, the second annual "Fash Free" festival was recently held in Portland, OR, celebrating the mass antifascist mobilization against the last large showing of the Proud Boys in August of 2021 - and the fact that the far-Right has not rallied in large numbers in the city since.



In Montreal, an attempt by neo-Nazi to put up fascist posters in a working-class neighborhood didn't quite go according to plan. According to a [post by Montreal Antifascists](#):

Last night, the young ethnic nationalists of Nouvelle Alliance tried another nightly [propaganda] outing, this time in the multicultural and working-class neighbourhoods of Centre-Sud and Hochelaga. They have gone so far as to display on the window of the People's Organization for Social Rights and the SITT - IWW Montreal.

To their great dismay, the popular response was swift. Indeed, the community mobilized, passers-by began to shout at them and the budding fascists felt threatened enough to call the police. The latter, always strangely prompt when it came to protecting Nouvelle Alliance, escorted the little soldiers of the French-Canadian race to their car and then out of the neighbourhood.

Let's remind this backward-looking group that the street is not Instagram, and that they cannot walk in working-class neighborhoods with impunity. We encourage our supporters to keep an eye out and report and tear down their propaganda. Organize locally to make Montreal anti-fascist.

Antifascists in Montreal have also issued a call to oppose far-Right, anti-LGBTQ+ rallies on September 20th. [See the call here](#).



Meanwhile in Millvale, PA, antifascists organized an outreach campaign and march against the home of neo-Nazi Brandon Cahall. [PGH Fash Watch reported](#):

This evening, everyday antifascists distributed hundreds of flyers and stickers in Millvale to educate neighbors about Brandon Cahall, a neo-Nazi who lives in their neighborhood. A march moved through the borough and to Brandon's house before dispersing.

The march was loud, in good spirits, and had many good conversations with neighbors and borough residents. We will continue to take action against WLM members and neo-Nazis in the city. Nazis out of Pittsburgh!

Community members are posting photos of flyers outing Brandon around the region, [check out the campaign here](#).

In prisoner resistance news, a [hunger-strike has kicked off at a federal facility in Montgomery, AL](#). [Rallies also continue in solidarity](#) with ongoing hunger-strikes and other actions at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, WA. In Brooklyn, as [Ash J reported](#), "Protesters...[held a noise demo] outside of Brooklyn's Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC) to celebrate the birthday of [#JamellFloyd](#), who was killed by the guards at MDC in November 2020..."

kind of action could have actually interrupted—or even shut down—the DNC.

Four years later, the Battle of Grant Park may seem like the exception that proves the rule. But it doesn't have to be this way. A serious revolutionary upsurge will require alliances that today seem almost impossible, and the example set by a militant minority can change movement organizers' conception of what is possible. In a moment of upsurge, activists trapped in NGOs, most often because they need a job, need not follow their leaders into the irrelevance of Democratic Party politics—just as militants should not consider anyone involved in these groups to simply be their inherent enemy.

## WHAT CAN I DO IN THE BELOWGROUND?

- **Have an action plan!** Waiting for someone else to take advantage of open windows guarantees what happens next will be uncoordinated, and waiting for them to open spontaneously risks waiting forever. Go into actions with a specific playbook for two or three possible opportunities, whether initiated by you or someone else.
- **Be normal!** Match and lead your crowds, and *speak with them*. Learn and spread whatever culture and tactics are leading the movement without isolating yourself—in Chicago, this means leaving the 2000s-style black bloc at home and dressing like a regular person to whatever extent possible. Recognize and respond whenever confrontations with the police or opportunities for breakaway actions present themselves: knowing how to ride the wave of an angry crowd is an acquired skill, but don't forget you are an active participant in the moment. Chants and calls to the broader crowd about whatever the pigs are up to have proven useful. During confrontations, don't be afraid to request crowds tighten up or pay attention to a

new threat—people listen.

- **Skill up!** Learn how to de-arrest, practice arm-linking, grips, and grip breaking, hit the gym, and run regularly. Be ready to repeat a learned action under significant stress. Figure out what tools can help affect immediate vibe shifts in the streets, learn how to use them, and how not to be apprehended with them. Bring your friends.
- **Be smart!** Communicate on [Signal](#), make your phone number not searchable, and opt for a [username](#). Leave your phone [at home](#) and work out how to use alternative means of communication during actions, cover identifying features without looking like a nutjob, [read](#) about how cops conduct surveillance and repression—and keep cameras [out](#) of your and your friends' faces.
- **Find each other!** You are not the only person—or crew—who wants to materially disrupt American support for the Gaza genocide! Work to balance necessary security with slow efforts to build capacity to coordinate bigger and better interventions in the movement.

## WHAT CAN I DO IN THE ABOVEGROUND?

- If you are sympathetic to the radical edge of the street protests, **find your people!** If your organization is objectively conservative in the movement, find or build a new one! From the perspective of the street, movement orgs can seem monolithic and hostile to more radical elements—often because they are. However, some promising interstitial organizations and unique scenes exist: local Students for Justice in Palestine or Jewish Voices for Peace chapters not beholden to conservative oversight, or New York's combination of PYM, university SJPs, and WOL, respectively. If this is you, do what you can to carve space out for more ambitious and *truly*

diverse tactics. Refuse to follow movement-policing commands from larger organizations and help encourage crowd support when street confrontations escalate. Start building trust with street militants.

- **Make room!** Emphasize to other organizers that calling a protest does not mean controlling it, and if possible, call protests that encourage autonomous actions. Shift as much as possible towards a style of marshaling that obstructs police repression instead of aiding it and obstructing militants. Approach mass actions as spaces where anything could happen instead of tightly-controlled demonstrations. Shift away from conservative attempts to use "safety" as a bludgeon against autonomous actions and instead prepare crowds for the possibility of escalation.
- **Be smart!** Compartmentalize actions. More privacy around actions-within-actions and a culture that accommodates militancy instead of punishing it can foster a style of organizing that avoids the representative pitfalls that compelled the Coalition marshals to do CPD's work for them. People not involved in the action do not need to know about it, much less its details. Organizers do not need to know whether escalation comes from within or outside the organization.
- **Help shift the culture!** Do what you can to bring protest culture in line with the needs of its more radical participants without dropping the needs of less radical ones—this is what proper marshaling should make room for. Fight the racist "outside agitator" trope, encourage concealing your identity, remind others that there are no bad protestors, fight the tendency to use "anarchist" and "agitator" as a badjacketing slur, emphasize the necessity of confronting the police and cover for ambitious tactics when they emerge—including by discouraging overeager press presence. *Cameras towards the*



“movement-building” org in the Palestine movement, do not attempt to hide their regular disdain for crowds they view as unruly children. Their relation to the demonstrations they call is paternalistic, opting for commands and shouting on the loudspeaker if the crowd fails to comply. A protest culture that casts protests as finely managed pageants is a natural fit for marshals who understand themselves as CPD’s first line of defense—which is what emerged at Monday’s march and reappeared each day of the DNC. These marshals, to echo a liberal credo about the police, were “just doing their jobs.” As public-facing spokespersons for the two marches on the DNC, they unilaterally took on responsibility for the actions of every protestor in attendance; when they physically lashed out at demonstrators, they did so out of a perverse attempt at self-preservation in the function handed down to them at their host organizations’ training sessions. Given this fundamentally petty-bourgeois and managerial relation to the movement, CPD superintendent Snelling’s praise that “the [Coalition] organizers have done a very good job policing themselves and policing each other” provides the actual yardstick by which we should measure their success and failure at the DNC. They won, we lost.

An aboveground that presumes to “represent” and maintain direct control over the entire content of the Palestine movement will prove inadequate for future legs of the struggle. Instead, aboveground organizers will need to facilitate practical experimentation by belowground militants, both in protest settings and otherwise—treating marches and movement campaigns not as well-ordered machines but as opportunities for new tactics and strategic partnerships to emerge. If this is not seriously pursued, the movement for Palestine will find itself confined to symbolic parades and endless water-is-wet stump speeches as the genocide continues.

## COORDINATION

In the months before August, the

DNC was frequently compared to the summit-hopping of the anti-globalization movement. This comparison is fair at first glance: the DNC concentrated disparate radicals around the country, gave them a relatively common purpose, and put them at odds with a whole array of police (local, federal, intelligence agencies, et cetera), a coalition of dead-end “movement building” orgs whose raison d’être never seems to arrive, and an atypically well-trained corps of protest marshals.

However, these immediate similarities are less valuable than what distinguishes us from them: the old summit-hopping years featured national and international coordinating networks and federations that made these convergences more sizable and coordination between participating groups more feasible. By contrast, we were limited to accidental communication between affinity groups, with no means to cash out the hope we all shared that many simultaneous actions could spread the week’s colossal police presence thinner and give us all better chances of success.

Action at the level of affinity groups only stumbled into one success in breaking through the fences on Monday, and missed the chance to capitalize on this open window before it closed permanently. Tuesday’s attempt to force it back open at BEL’s march on the Israeli consulate was disastrous, ending with mass arrests and no tangible windfall for the movement. We had previously assumed CPD’s hands-off response to Monday’s security perimeter breach indicated a shift towards passive counterinsurgency for the rest of the week—maybe money was primarily invested in surveillance and long-term security, not cracking skulls!—to our detriment.

Our enemies debrief when we do: the marshals and police managed us far more forcefully in the days after the fence came down, and the information they gathered from our one success colored their attempts to prevent us from ever succeeding

again. The city built the fences higher, while CPD assigned more bike cops to later marches and kept the second march on the DNC from setting foot inside the park’s “free speech zone.”

*We should be ready to achieve our goals the first time the window opens, not the second time after it’s shut.* In pursuit of this, we should develop specific goals with comrades well in advance, prepare tactically and technologically, and know how to take decisive action at the earliest intelligent opportunity. In the longer term, we need to solidify numerous (redundant) means by which we can plan with one another at scale.

## TAKEAWAYS

In the long term, success for anti-system activists will depend on cultivating zones of indistinction between ourselves and the broader, legal movement, in which we can operate on a much larger field, freed from the burden of being an obvious minority, and potentially pull many sympathetic young activists in our direction in the process. Recent Chicago history furnishes an example of how this can be done.

In the summer of 2020, an umbrella of local organizations, including the Chicago chapter of Black Lives Matter, sponsored an [action aimed at removing the statue](#) of Christopher Columbus in Grant Park. They actively welcomed the participation of the so-called “horizontalists” now demonized by the clowns in the March on the DNC Coalition. The result was a welcome break from the endless parades that had by this point made a mockery of the militancy of the George Floyd rebellion, and today lead the Palestine solidarity movement into irrelevance. A hail of fireworks and La Croix cans forced the Chicago pigs, who had been beating on protesters all summer, to make a hasty retreat. The ensuing skirmishes, unfolding to a percussion section and the fiery speeches of a local BLM organizer, demonstrated that real militancy is possible across the lines imposed on us by radical liberalism and the funding structures of NGOs. This



Finally, Running Down the Walls events took place in a dozen cities across North America. Check *IGD* for a roundup soon, and support the [Anarchist Black Cross](#) [warchest here](#). In Portland, former anarchist political prisoner Eric King spoke and read several messages of solidarity from prisoners facing repression, including local journalist Alissa Azar, who is currently imprisoned for defending herself while covering a Proud Boys rally. You can [support Alissa by getting a shirt here](#).

## Upcoming Events

- **September 20th - 22nd:** NYC Anarchist Bookfair. [More info here](#).
- **September 21st:** Breaking the Borders Fest. Chicago, IL. [More info here](#).
- **September 21st - 22nd:** Victoria Anarchist Bookfair. [More info here](#).
- **September 28th:** Pushing Down the Walls. Huntington Park, CA. [More info here](#).
- **September 28th:** Hamilton Anarchist Bookfair. [More info here](#).
- **September 28th - 29th:** Seattle Anarchist Bookfair. [More info here](#).
- **October 5th:** 20th Anniversary of Really Really Free Market. Carrboro, NC. [More info here](#).
- **October 6th:** Bay Area Anarchist Bookfair. [More info here](#).
- **October 12th:** Kansas City Anarchist Bookfair. Kansas City, MO. [More info here](#).
- **October 18th - 20th:** Northeast Health Autonomy Convergence. [More info here](#).
- **October 19th - 20th:** Boston Anarchist Bookfair. [More info here](#).
- **November 9th:** Benefit for Kitsap Food Not Bombs. Bremerton, WA. [More info](#)

[here](#).

- **November 26th - 28th:** Indigenous anarchist convergence. Occupied so-called Phoenix, AZ. [More info here](#).

cover photo: [Off the 99](#)

## A Pillar in the Land of Ruin: Mutual Aid at Willson Tower

September 16, 2024

**A look at mutual aid organizing at Wilson Tower in so-called Cleveland, OH, in the wake of the city being pounded by tornadoes.**

When people think of vibrant mutual aid spaces, housing projects at the margins of concrete jungles aren’t usually what first come to mind. However, Willson Tower, one of the most underserved housing projects in Cleveland, Ohio, is exactly that - a lifeline of support and solidarity that has come together as an extended family.

Mutual aid movements were forged in exilic spaces like this, where collective survival has always depended on what the people at the margins and from below create through taking care of each other. In the midst of the daily struggle of living in one of capital’s sacrifice zones, the people of Willson Tower and the surrounding neighborhood have come together time and time again, to create a paradise built in hell and create resilient relationships that help them weather any crisis. People in abandoned communities like these always care for each other in the face of overwhelming odds and deal in hope, following in the footsteps of movement ancestors, like the [susus](#), [black self-help tradition](#), and [Black Panther Party](#).

Suncere Ali Shakur, one of the co-founders of Mutual Aid Disaster Relief (MADR), is a resident of Willson Tower and has helped to initiate and grow grassroots, community-led survival programs in Cleveland and beyond including the Wolfpack Gunshot Response team, the Hali Stone Children’s

Free Breakfast Program, and MADR’s Feed the People, Wellness, Supplies Distribution, Animal Survivor, and Invisible Disasters [survival programs](#). With his experiences responding to Hurricane Katrina, Superstorm Sandy, the 2010 earthquake in Ayiti (Haiti), and other disasters, Suncere knows the transformative potential that exists during a crisis. Each pandemic, tornado, power outage, water outage, shooting, winter storm or other disaster that has hit Willson Tower has just added more fuel to the fire to resurrect the spirit of the Black Panther Party in Cleveland, with thriving free breakfast programs, free laundry, haircuts, Christmas toy giveaways, mask distribution, grocery deliveries, community cookouts, animal rescue and care programs, conflict mediation, clothes distribution, first aid, and more.

First documented in 600 A.D. by Imam Ali, the saying “Knowledge is power” has been reiterated across cultures and was echoed by the Black Panther Party in their Ten-Point Program. To that end, Suncere has also trained many community members in critically important Stop The Bleed skills, creating a civilian gunshot response team to respond quickly to emergencies in the absence of accessible services, or until they arrive, similar to the [Free Ambulance Program](#) organized by the Black Panther Party.



Early in August, neighborhoods across Cleveland were impacted by [five EF-1 tornadoes](#) which left 300,000 people without electricity regionally, including residents of the 22-story public housing complex Willson Tower. With 64 family units lacking electricity,

sewage, and running water, Suncere, his neighbors, community members, and Mutual Aid Disaster Relief showed up for each other in big ways, helping each other survive, and sharing food, water, flashlights, solar chargers, battery banks, and intangible things like emotional first aid and other necessities until the lights, water and elevator access were restored, and, what began as a disaster, quickly evolved into a beautiful exercise in solidarity.

Yet, even as we celebrate this, we acknowledge that too often ignored and invisible disasters still remain in Willson Tower and similar communities throughout America. Regular, daily, consistent survival programs are an integral part to how Willson Tower's residents survive the invisible disasters of unemployment, extreme poverty, post-incarceration, addiction, generational trauma, and extreme societal marginalization, and these steady efforts are rarely ever shown on the nightly news. Rather than emerging from a vacuum, ongoing community survival programs like these are the ground from which powerful communal disaster responses spring, like the Willson Tower tornado response.

As Fred Hampton is often quoted as saying, "First you have free breakfasts, then you have free medical care, then you have free bus rides, and soon you have FREEDOM!"

If you are able to help, to share, or to amplify and uplift this powerful example of community organizing as disaster preparedness and disaster response as community organizing, Suncere can be reached directly at [bigblackafrika2000@yahoo.com](mailto:bigblackafrika2000@yahoo.com) and donations can be made to the [Mutual Aid Disaster Relief Action Network](#) general fund, or directly to Suncere for ongoing Willson Tower mutual aid activities through paypal using the email address above.

This unrecognized and critical work happens every day in the shadows and at the margins, stopping the slow bleed out from our communities. This important, grassroots work needs a consistent flow of resources to continue

caring for the community at large, every day, and not just during very visible crisis events.

If you want to learn more about the connections between the freedom movement, black power movement and mutual aid movement, Suncere has a podcast called [The People's Dinner Party](#) where he interviews longtime activists and revolutionaries while sharing food and drink discussing mutual aid, revolutionary ideas, solidarity, and community.

photo: [Mutual Aid Disaster Relief on Instagram](#)

## Over 100 March in Richmond, VA in Solidarity with Palestine, Clash With Police

September 14, 2024

Report on recent anti-war march in solidarity with Palestine in Richmond, VA. From press release originally posted to the [Escalate Network](#).

On Friday, September 13th, a rally organized by the United Anti-Apartheid Movement transformed into a heated march. Demonstrators faced a heavy police presence, resulting in at least one arrest, vandalized police cruisers, and direct clashes with law enforcement.

The rally escalated as protesters, fueled by anger over the Virginia Israel Advisory Board (VIAB) and its ties to US-backed Israeli war crimes in both Gaza and the West Bank, took to the streets. Tensions soared when police swarmed the demonstrators without provocation. In turn, demonstrators blocked the streets; threw fireworks and projectiles at police officers behind the march, in order to defend one another from the surprise attack by law enforcement.

Seth Jackson, spokesperson for the United Anti-Apartheid Movement, explained the motivations behind the protest: "The Virginia Israel Advisory Board represents

imperialism. In this genocidal moment, we reject incremental approaches. Marching and speaking out are not enough. We have taken responsibility for our future, and we will not stop until VIAB leaves Richmond and Virginia." Jackson highlighted the broader context: "We are responding to a call for global solidarity with the Palestinian people and their legally authorized resistance to colonial occupation. We oppose the expanding genocide authorized by the White House and executed by the US-funded Zionist occupation of Palestine. We are workers, students, community members, and native Richmonders united in stopping these massacres by any means necessary."

The Virginia Israel Advisory Board is an Israeli business promotion entity embedded within the Virginia state government and funded by the state's taxpayers. VIAB promotes Israeli military & police technology businesses in Virginia, who make Heron TP drones to murder people in Gaza & Zibar tactical utility vehicles for patrolling the Egyptian border. Protestors argue, VIAB is a financial artery for the military-industrial complex that supports ongoing violence against Palestinian civilians.

Jackson emphasized the protest's ultimate goal: "We believe that only a revolutionary transformation of our world and society can achieve our goals. We strive for a world of peace, dignity, self-determination, and equality. That will and always has required us to rise up."

"We hope today's actions inspire others to escalate their resistance," Jackson added. "This is a crucial moment, and we are committed to continuing our fight for justice. It does not surprise us that Richmond residents would take this kind of bold action just after community members in nearby Washington DC courageously stood up following the racist murder of Justin Robinson by law enforcement. From Palestine to the USA, racism, colonialism, and authoritarianism must be toppled!"

*Slightly edited for readability. Photo: Screenshot via [Goad Gatsby](#)*

demonstration's location at a major transport hub, its extreme publicity, and the high-stakes target pushed participants directly into the open arms of Chicago police and Illinois state troopers, who kettled the entire block. Seventy-two arrests depleted the radical edge of the week's attendees and chilled further participation by other militants. Wednesday and Thursday were uneventful as a result.

The Coalition organizing the marches on the DNC discouraged participation in BEL's action at the consulate, pointing to Monday's altercation with the marshals as evidence of the organization's untrustworthiness. This limited the size of both the crowd at the consulate *inside* the police barriers and the sparse groups that formed *outside* those lines to support demonstrators, making mass arrests in both cases much more difficult to combat. On the other hand, BEL, driven by its commitment to the moral virtue of confrontation absent any serious efforts to make that "escalation" fit a broader movement strategy, attempted to force open a window that had shut after Monday's perimeter breach brought the combined weight of CPD and the Coalition down on militants.

## STRATEGY AND TACTICS

The Coalition and BEL tried—and failed—to navigate a problem that defines the limits of the Palestine movement's current form. We are confronted by a gap that emerged in 2020 between two tendencies: first, a radical, tactically ambitious, and spontaneous belowground of street militants and second, a more conservative, movement-disloyal aboveground in its activist, academic, and state-affiliated layers. Throughout the opening days of the George Floyd rebellion, the movement's conservative edge retreated from the tasks at hand. Only a few marginal and belated efforts—such as an action at Grant Park in Chicago—attempted to correct this general trend. The window closed, and efforts by isolated "rioters" and "agitators" to

force it open again were met with force and disappointment.

The DNC's spectacle of tantrum-throwing activists and deputized marshals invites a simple moral condemnation of responsible participants and their host organizations. While warranted, easy condemnation threatens to obscure another more concerning observation: each contending organization dealt with this split between below and abovegrounds by collapsing one into the other. The Coalition collapsed street tactics up into aboveground messaging and "family-friendly" palatability, giving up on confronting police, much less intervening materially to disrupt the genocide in Gaza; BEL collapsed their own messaging and aboveground presence into months of non-stop agitprop about how hard they were and how much they wanted to riot—isolating themselves and those they attracted in the movement, and abandoning the element of surprise that makes most direct actions effective.

Many of us, cut off from any organizations in attendance, found ourselves in an equally uncomfortable situation: the organizations who convened the event and whose crowds we relied on to initiate (and get away with) escalation viewed us with something between hostility and indifference, and as a result, we lacked the presence to tie our marginal victories to more substantial and ambitious tactical pursuits. But this sidelined projects that would've used crowd support and drove militants to plan riskier and more numerically isolated actions—or, as it turned out, lowered the ceiling for the median direct action to noise demos and heckling. Breaking through the security perimeter on Monday would have spurred mass buy-in and unpredictable next steps at an action convened by Within Our Lifetime (WOL) in New York—instead, Chicago's self-styled movement leaders directed the rest of the crowd away from the "free speech zone" and left the fence-breakers to contend with a morass of riot cops and press. We found ourselves in a belowground at odds [again](#) with its movement-disloyal

aboveground.

Our conditions for success are the substantial material disruption of American funding and military aid on which the genocide in Gaza depends. Under present organizational conditions, this is out of our reach. Our inherited organizational philosophies and models work against any strategic unity of public-facing and belowground organizing that would make this possible, instead favoring our being siloed away as the footsoldiers of unending, toothless pressure campaigns. To that end, the tactical reflections in this document will also attempt to map our role as belowground militants who find themselves at risk of outpacing their movement in the present conjuncture.

## MARSHALS

At Monday's march on the DNC, protest marshals linked arms to isolate militants advocating for a breakaway march towards the United Center, physically assaulting two protesters and attempting to hand even more over to the police. This effort was impressively coordinated, relying on walkie-talkies, earpieces, and real-time coordination of personnel to respond to the "physical violence" of protesters attempting to protect their fellow militants from the overeager footsoldiers of the CPD. We underestimated the extent to which the marshals had prepared to confront us—"We've been training for months!" one shouted at us—and lacked similar technology to coordinate our response, trapping a sizable section of the more militant bloc at Monday's action in a pointless scuffle with the marshals, unaware as better placed and prioritized radicals got to work on the fence separating the "free speech zone" at Park No. 578 from the DNC itself. That uncoordinated scuffle with marshals did provide cover for the people who breached the security perimeter—but only accidentally.

The Freedom Road Socialist Organization's trained organizers, who represent Chicago's primary





## Seattle Is Never Coming Back: Reflections on the DNC

September 11, 2024

A critical look at the recent demonstrations in solidarity with Palestine at the Democratic National Convention (DNC) in so-called Chicago. Originally posted to [Lake Effect](#).

The Democratic National Convention descended on Chicago during the last week of August, bringing with it swarms of police and politicians who quickly rendered the city uninhabitable. In response, Chicago's major Palestine-sympathetic organizations coordinated marches and demonstrations, and seemingly thousands of out-of-town activists came to visit, some of whom attempted to make good on their more radical aspirations during the week's many marches.

These disparate militants—communists, anarchists, and others looking to “escalate for Gaza”—shared a distaste for the notion that speaking truth to power should be the horizon of our movement. For our part, we understood our presence to work towards an eventual countervailing power capable of winning large-scale victories against the police and actually shutting things down—like the DNC—in the process. This power would rival, undermine, and render obsolete that of the capitalist state instead of peaceably communicating our demands to it. Street militancy and confrontations with the police may not be immediately identical with this aspiration, at least at the moment, when we are at a remove from aboveground mass organizations whose strategic horizons are congruent with our goals. But as we confront police violence and navigate around movement misleadership, we work to cohere a force with the skills and strategic clarity necessary to act when the moment presents itself—and which makes that action thinkable to others who may share our goals.

What the present moment needs is

political experimentation. The various “movement building” organizations—for example, the organizers of the marches on Washington, DC, or the recent marches on the DNC—have decided that they know exactly what acceptable political practice looks like. The worst thing that could happen to them is the unexpected. We take the exact opposite position. A form of politics that is adequate to the present moment will need space to emerge and clarify itself—which it will, every time it falls short of its goals.

While the first major protest of the week of the DNC, the “Bodies Outside of Unjust Laws” march on Sunday, August 18th, underscored the predominance of social-democratic and incrementalist organizations at the fore of the coming marches, Monday, by contrast, ended in a set of unlikely escalations. As the official Coalition to March on the DNC (the “Coalition”) filed marchers into its designated “free speech zone,” radicals calling for a breakaway march clashed with protest marshals who formed a human chain to separate them from the broader march. While this altercation drew marshals’ attention, other participants began unscrewing the bolts attached to the security perimeter’s fence, eventually breaking it down and spilling into a street that faced the United Center, where the convention was taking place. After this minor victory against two sets of police, a short-lived “encampment” emerged at the march’s endpoint but served as little more than a pretense to stare down police for a while before the crowd ebbed away.

On Tuesday, in an attempt to capture Monday’s momentum, a previously marginal, politically-vague but outwardly “militant” group called Behind Enemy Lines (BEL) led a demonstration outside of the Israeli consulate that they had been promoting since at least July. They were met by lines of bike and riot cops who prevented entry to the building, or getting anywhere near it. Instead, the

## Justice Distorted: Activists Sentenced for Conspiracy, Avoid FACE Act Charges, in Unprecedented Attack on Pro-Choice Defenders

September 13, 2024

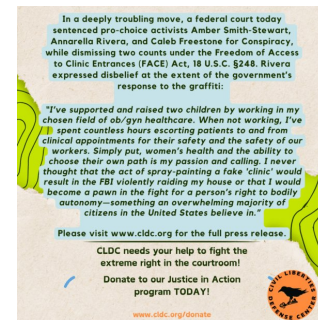
Report from the Civil Liberties Defense Center (CLDC) about the recent sentencing of several pro-choice activists in Tampa, FL.

In a deeply troubling move, a federal court today sentenced pro-choice activists Amber Smith-Stewart and Annarella Rivera to 30 days in custody and 60 days of home confinement and Caleb Freestone to 1 year and 1 day in federal prison for Conspiracy, while dismissing two counts under the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act, 18 U.S.C. §248. This unprecedented use of the FACE Act—originally designed to protect abortion clinics and their employees—has been twisted to prosecute activists protesting so-called crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs), which are in many cases religious-run facilities that actively work to manipulate and prevent people from accessing abortions. The crimes these defendants have admitted to and took responsibility for would normally result in a state or municipal court misdemeanor for graffiti. Caleb Freestone’s longer sentence was attributed to minor activism he had been arrested for wheat-pasting flyers on private buildings—the charges were later dismissed but the court heavily punished him for it.

The Federal Judge from the Middle District of Florida, Virginia Hernandez Covington, at one point inconceivably argued that spray painting the outside of a closed fake clinic building was more threatening than fire bombing and causing a fire at an abortion clinic. Judge Hernandez Covington

argued that the fear the crisis pregnancy center workers felt was in some way more serious than hurling two molotov cocktails at a legitimate health provider. Lawyer for Amber Smith-Stewart, Lauren Regan pushed back on this statement with the Judge eventually conceding, “They’re both bad.” This colloquy with the Court exposed the clear bias against the reproductive justice activists. Regan provided extensive evidence and argument regarding all of the FACE Act prosecutions and sentences around the country. “These reproductive justice activists are the first pro-choice people to be prosecuted under this statute after pressure was applied to the Department of Justice by Florida politicians. They are also the first to be prosecuted for minor property damage that occurred when there were no patients or workers around. Anti-abortion defendants that firebombed clinics or had repeated violations of blockading patients trying to enter Planned Parenthood Clinics got less punishment than our clients did today.”

In the summer of 2022, Amber Smith-Stewart, Annarella Rivera, and Caleb Freestone spray painted three anti-abortion centers in Central and Southern Florida. The defendants previously admitted to tagging these facilities that Planned Parenthood calls “fake clinics,” with the following messages: “If abortions aren’t safe than neither [sic] are you.” These protests came in the aftermath of the Supreme Court’s Dobbbs decision and were borne out of frustration and grief over the rollback of abortion rights in the United States in the wake of the overturned Roe v. Wade precedent. The defendants were arrested for spray painting messages on fake reproductive health facilities in Florida, which the government argued were “reproductive health service” providers under the FACE Act — a position highly questionable given that, the centers involved in this case should never have been granted the protections of a law meant to safeguard true healthcare providers.



Rivera, a long-time advocate for reproductive justice, expressed disbelief at the extent of the government’s response to the graffiti, stating “I’ve supported and raised two children by working in my chosen field of ob/gyn healthcare. When not working, I’ve spent countless hours escorting patients to and from clinical appointments for their safety and the safety of our workers. Simply put, women’s health and the ability to choose their own path is my passion and calling. I never thought that the act of spray-painting a fake ‘clinic’ would result in the FBI violently raiding my house or that I would become a pawn in the fight for a person’s right to bodily autonomy—something an overwhelming majority of citizens in the United States believe in.”

Smith-Stewart added: “In hindsight, I understand that the slogans we spray painted in 2022 could have been taken as a threat which was not our intent. The real threat here remains the assault by a vocal minority against a person’s right to choose. This is where the real danger lies. The Dobbbs decision puts lives at risk. People seek abortions for a multitude of reasons, and the decision to terminate or carry a pregnancy to term should never be made by power brokers in Washington, D.C. In my case, my own life would be at risk if I was subjected to a forced pregnancy.”

The use of the FACE Act to protect CPCs, which often operate with the intention of dissuading or manipulating people from obtaining abortions, is a gross distortion of the law. Defense counsel for Smith-Stewart, Lauren Regan, Director of Litigation and

Considering all the personal risks of going to trial, and factoring in the larger political context of the case, Peppy and Krystal arrived at this decision as the least-worst option. We all know the trial wouldn’t have been based on the facts of the case so much as what the prosecution can make a jury believe, and it behooves Krystal and Peppy to go this route. They are also aware that their pleas, significantly less than the 10-year mandatory minimum Pep faced for the third count alone, inform precedent for these kinds of charges moving forward.

We are extremely grateful to the deep and sustained outpouring of support throughout this ordeal. It’s been incredible, but it’s also not over. While these developments give us direction, they are just next steps in the process.

There is a Sentencing Hearing scheduled for January 6th, 2025. If you’re interested in submitting character letters on Pep’s behalf, here is all the information on [how to do that](#).

And of course, continued letters to Peppy are so important! let him know we’re still out here and with him every step of the way.

To write to Peppy, address the mail to:

Butler County Prison  
c/o Brian DiPippa  
#42322 PO Box 9156  
Seminole, FL 33775-9156

Advocacy at Civil Liberties Defense Center (CLDC), condemned today's ruling: "This case marks a dangerous shift in the misuse of the FACE Act, twisting it from a law designed to protect abortion providers into a tool for punishing those who stand up for reproductive rights. The government's claims are a gross overreach. Using a statute intended to safeguard access to abortion to criminalize protest against anti-abortion centers undermines justice and bodily autonomy. This should alarm anyone who believes in the right to choose and the fight for reproductive freedom."

The sentences handed down today send a chilling message to those standing up for reproductive rights and bodily autonomy but CLDC will have your back and we will continue to support Amber Smith-Stewart, Annarella Rivera, Caleb Freestone, and all those fighting for a better world. Thanks to Michael Maddux, attorney for Caleb Freestone, and Vanessa King, attorney for Annarella Rivera.

Photo by [Reed Naliboff](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## An Anti-fascist Guide to the US 2024 Election

September 13, 2024

An analysis from Atlanta Antifascists on the upcoming US election and how it might influence and accelerate state repression and far-Right violence.

As a militant anti-fascist group, we have never endorsed any electoral candidate, and that will not change with this election. However, elections can impact the growth of fascist movements, as well as the ability of anti-fascists to fight. Furthermore, although grassroots anti-fascist groups like ours have been operating in the US continuously from the 1980s onward, we were rarely in the national spotlight. 2017 changed this entirely, when the existence of "antifa" became a matter of wide discussion and often wild speculation. This guide aims to combat misinformation about our

politics and activity. We also make suggestions on how to organize in the future, no matter which candidate wins.

We will make a few predictions in this piece, based on prior experience and also on our observations of how far-right groups are planning for the election. Our first and very safe prediction is that this election will *not* follow the same pattern of 2016, in which the ascendant alt-right tied their hopes to Trump, and we saw an unprecedented, de facto alliance between the fascist and white-power far right, and the Republican establishment. Eight years later, many of these fascist and white power far-right groups have become disenchanted with Trump. Foreign policy fractures opened over Ukraine in 2022 and widened over Palestine in 2023.

There are two diametrically opposed positions on the right over Israel, although both positions are [antisemitic](#). One is advanced by Christian Zionists who support Israel, and another is held by paleoconservatives who either oppose Israel or want to cease US aid to Israel. Trump has chosen the Christian Zionist side, leading to his abandonment by formerly Trumpist open fascists and neo-Nazis, although many had become disillusioned even before this point. Some anti-Israel fascist groups, such as AFPAC led by Nick Fuentes, still focus on gaining a foothold in politics and encourage infiltration of the Republican party. Even Fuentes has [not been energized](#) by the current Trump campaign, although he was one of the few enthusiastic about Trump's September 10th debate performance. Many other US fascist groups now regard Trump as a betrayer and reject a "political solution" entirely. These fascist groups will nevertheless take advantage of anti-immigrant scapegoating by Trump, using it as an opportunity to recruit and to build a climate of intimidation.

In the case of a Trump win, there will be infighting on the right as power is redistributed and consolidated. However, this will not mean that life will become easier for anyone else. All

traditional scapegoats of the right (racial, religious, and ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+, leftists) will continue to be targeted. Some of this targeting will be done by the Trump government itself, but even extra-state targeting may increase, because a Trump win could give a sense of "the people are with us" to the right and thus provide psychological permission for individuals to engage in harassment. Anti-fascists must work in their communities to quickly remove any emboldened feelings on the far right, while engaging with broader protest movements that arise in response to targeting by the state.

We should expect a Trump presidency to be tumultuous. Whatever the actual causes of turmoil, the right will blame its traditional scapegoats. We saw a preview of this dynamic in the responses to the Trump assassination attempt, when far-right media initially tried to revive antifa conspiracies to explain the assassin's motives.

Repression under Trump may be severe. The extrajudicial assassination of [Michael Reineohl](#) in 2020 by a federal task force is one potential template for political violence. Any individual or organization targeted by Trump or his administration is extremely unlikely to find recourse in law. The state will bring the most violence against social and political movements challenging police repression. However, it will be essential that these movements survive and grow.

DHS and CBP may become power centers as a Trump administration consolidates, given Trump's history of conflict with the FBI. (It is also possible that Trump symbolically chastises the FBI but quickly makes peace.) There will be attempts to implement the authoritarian "[Project 2025](#)" agenda written by Trump loyalists, although Trump's erratic personality means that its implementation may not be as smooth as the planners hope. The extreme right will see themselves as still in conflict with the mainstream power structure, but there will be areas where some groups will take opportunistic advantage. Groups that are less ideologically rigid, like

the Proud Boys, may be able to come back into relevancy and present themselves as auxiliaries to state power in order to fulfill a paramilitary function. In cases where a Democratic power structure runs a city (such as our city, Atlanta) and local politicians resist federal intervention, these paramilitary forces may become a preferred way for the far-right state to repress dissent and attack targets such as immigrants.

In case of a Trump win, our work, and anti-fascist work in general, will become harder. Tech oligarchs such as Peter Thiel and Elon Musk have supported Trump in the past or in this election cycle. This alignment of tech leaders and the state means that communications over US-based platforms would become much riskier.

Activists will need to improve their informational security and also cultivate more ties outside this country—we encourage taking small practical steps *before* the election. There will be increasing misinformation about both fascism and anti-fascism and new conspiracy theories that create internal enemies in order to unify the right in hatred. The bulk of our work depends on giving good, free, information to the public in order for people to act against fascism on their own, but if the state has become authoritarian to such a degree that we are unable to do that over open channels, we will need to find alternate ways of getting the information out. One such opportunity is that there will be many mass protests by (center) left groups and local communities. Anti-fascists need to enter coalitions and use these protests to explain and demonstrate how to resist fascism effectively.

If Harris wins, there will be a period of right-wing blame and intense infighting that will quickly resolve into a burying of differences and unification against the new administration. The perceived indignity of having a Black woman president will result in extreme anger and resentment, mirroring and perhaps intensifying the effect Obama had on them: during the Obama administration, militant far-right groups experienced a

resurgence.

From the anti-fascist perspective, a Harris administration would largely continue the domestic status quo of the Biden administration. On one hand, based on prior behavior in office, this is a less damaging alternative to Trump on both the domestic and international level, and we would face less danger of being extra-judicially assassinated. On the other hand, this kind of status quo maintains all current repressive policies and simply kicks the can down the road in terms of fascist political violence. The Harris administration will promise legal and carceral solutions to fascism, and those simply do not work. Laws enacted against fascists are used against anti-fascists in practice: one example is the use of mask laws, which were originally supposed to affect groups like the KKK but are now instead applied by the courts against anti-fascists, anti-racists, and pro-Palestinian demonstrators.

In the case of a Harris win, activists need to take advantage of a window of opportunity by growing numbers, de-emphasizing carceral solutions within their communities, and stressing anti-fascist education. Through our media and through advancing a grassroots culture of anti-fascism, anti-fascists should vigorously resist attempts to co-opt anti-fascism into state-based solutions. Immigrant and refugee defense will also become even more important than it is now, because the far right will attempt to re-unify around attacking immigrants. Meanwhile, a Harris administration will attempt to strike a "moderate" balance between two narratives of "nation of immigrants" and "law and order", which means that in real-term policy, carceral repression will continue unabated.

In the case of an outbreak of violence around the election or certification, anti-fascists should engage using principles of community defense as part of larger engagements of self-determination. Our priorities should be defending those who are targeted by the far right, making sure that shows of intimidation are opposed, and thwarting direct attacks by the far right. Poll workers, who in our city are majority Black, elderly, and

working class, will be targets of far-right attacks and we must defend them. However, interceding on behalf of any party's state power structure falls outside of the principles of community defense. We encourage everyone to think through all possible local scenarios, especially in our city, which could very easily become a flashpoint of election-related violence.

Finally, transphobia and abortion will be issues that the far right will try to organize around under either candidate.

There will be work to do no matter who wins. Candidates and conditions may change, but our anti-fascist [principles](#) should remain the same.

Photo by [Markus Spiske](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## Join Us, As We Are In It For the Long Haul

September 12, 2024

Update from the support crew of Peppy and Krystal. For more background and info on how to support, [go here](#).

As a result of the offer brought by the prosecution in late August, Peppy and Krystal changed their pleas at a hearing on September 10th.

Peppy pled guilty to counts 1 (conspiracy) and 2 (obstruction of law enforcement during a civil disorder); the third count, which carried with it a 10-year mandatory minimum, was dropped. Krystal pled guilty to count 2.

Krystal's plea means she'll be on probation for 3 years but will not serve any jail time. By statute, Peppy's plea carries a 60-month sentence. However, given time served and federal prison guidelines, we estimate that he will serve approximately 24 - 30 months, with the hopes that it will be less than that.